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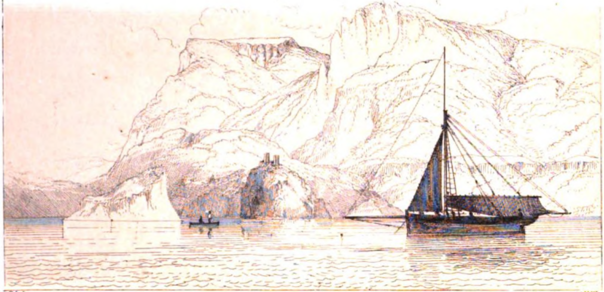

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GUIDE

TO THE

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

OF

SCOTLAND

INCLUDING ORKNEY AND ZETLAND

DESCRIPTIVE OF THEIR SCENERY,
STATISTICS, ANTIQUITIES, AND NATURAL HISTORY.

CONTAINING ALSO

DIRECTIONS FOR VISITING THE LOWLANDS OF SCOTLAND

WITH DESCRIPTIVE NOTICES,

AND

MAPS, VIEWS, TABLES OF DISTANCES,
NOTICES OF INNS, &c.

BY GEORGE ANDERSON AND PETER ANDERSON
OF INVERNESS.

THIRD EDITION
CAREFULLY REVISED, ENLARGED, AND REMODELLED.

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PREFACE.

THE Authors having been induced to remodel this Guide, by commencing the Routes between Inverness and the South, not at Inverness as a central point, as in previous editions, but at the opposite extremities, so as better to serve the purpose of the stranger visiting the Highlands, necessarily had to rewrite these portions; and they, with some confidence, anticipate that these alterations produce a very material improvement in all respects. They have again visited several parts of the country, and made personal acquaintance with some other districts which they had not had previous opportunity of inspecting for themselves—thus giving freshness and novelty to the narrative. They have also subjected the whole work to so *thorough* a revision, and have introduced so much new matter into their pages, that they are encouraged to hope that it will now be found not only a very complete Guide Book to the Highlands and Islands, even in their most remote and sequestered byeways, but also a readable, as well as comprehensive compilation, for the closet or the fireside. To

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accommodate the Volume to the wants of Tourists throughout the *whole of Scotland*, a condensed Sketch of the *Lowlands* has been added, by which the Authors have endeavoured to direct the Traveller's notice to the points of most interest, as well as to promote his acquaintance with the subjects it passes in rapid survey before him.

It is with much gratification the Authors acknowledge the prompt attention they have received from the numerous parties they have applied to for details of information, for this as of former Editions. They have felt called upon already to express their special sense of obligation to the Reverend Charles Clouston of Stromness, in Orkney, for his description of the Orkney Islands—to the late Mr. George Sutherland Taylor of Dornoch —and to Mr. Robert Sutherland Taylor, sheriff-substitute of the eastern division of Ross-shire, by whom the nucleus of the Branch Routes to the North and West of Sutherlandshire was furnished; and to the Reverend Dr. M'Intosh Mackay of Dunoon, who has kindly supplied the greater part of the description of Islay. But they cannot with propriety continue to avail themselves of the labours of these gentlemen without renewed acknowledgment. Through the kindness of Mr. Thomas Fraser, sheriff-substitute of Skye, several gaps in the delineation of the scenery of that island will now be found to be filled up; and the Authors are indebted to Mr. George May, resident engineer of the Caledonian Canal, for the amended lucid history and account of that national undertaking—the most full and complete yet presented to the public. The de-

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tails of the Roman Camps at Ardoch, and other particulars regarding Strathearn, were communicated by a gentleman conversant with the antiquities of the neighbourhood—Mr. Thomas Soutar, writer, Crieff.

Though the plan of the first Edition led to greater use being made, than in subsequent Editions, of the benefits of the scientific aid, which the kindness of Drs. Hibbert, Sir W. J. Hooker, Sir Roderick Impey Murcheson, and the Reverend George Gordon of Birnie, put at their command, the Authors would again tender their grateful acknowledgments to these gentlemen. This Edition is enriched with a valuable synopsis of the Geology of Morayshire by Alexander Robertson, Esq., of Elgin.

In conclusion, the Authors would repeat their request, that any inaccuracies or defects may be pointed out to them, in order to future correction.

Inverness, *6th August* 1850.

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GUIDE

TO THE

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

SECTION I.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

General Features of the Highlands, paragraph 1.—Landed Property; Population, 2.—Early History of the Highlands, and Characteristics of the Ancient Highlanders, 3.—Strength and Distribution of the Clans, 4.—Their Political Relations, 5.—Causes of Change and Career of Improvements in the Highlands, 6.—Dwellings, 7.—Commercial Resources, Harbours, and Piers, 8.—Highland Societies of London and Scotland, Sheep and Wool, 9.—Black Cattle, Horses, 10.—Wood, 11.—Kelp, 12.—British Fisheries, 13.—Herring and Salmon Fisheries, 14.—White Fish, 15.—Game, 16.—Sources of Livelihood; Dress; Language, 17.—Ecclesiastical History of the Highlands, 18.—Parliamentary or Government Churches, 19.—Episcopacy in Scotland since the Revolution, 20.—Present Ecclesiastical Statistics of the Highlands, 21.—History and State of Education and Religious Instruction, 22.—Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge; Gaelic Scriptures; Government Missions, 23.—Erroneous System of Education till of late years observed, 24.—Edinburgh and Glasgow Gaelic School Societies, and Inverness Education Society; Moral Statistics, 25.—General Assembly's Educational Scheme; Gaelic Episcopal Society; Gaelic Scriptures, 26.—Present State of Education and Religious Instruction, 27.—Gaelic Literature, 28.—Highland Music, 29.—General Character of the Highland Population, 30.

1. It will save much repetition in the body of this work, if we begin it with a few general remarks on the external appearance, history, and statistics of the Highlands, with some brief notices of the present condition of the inhabitants and their resources, and such a sketch of the natural history of the country as is necessary for the use of the Tourist, and which may assist the recollection of the man of science. The Highlands of Scotland, then, strictly speaking, consist only of the mountainous parts to the north of the Firths of Clyde and Tay, and the River Forth.

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Their boundary stretches in a line from S.W. to N.E., a few miles north of the cities of Glasgow, Stirling, Perth, and Dundee, and excludes the greater parts of the sea coasts of Nairn, Elgin, and Banff shires, and the counties on the eastern coast south of the Moray Firth—all of which were peopled at an early period by Saxon, Danish, or Flemish colonies; and hence were separated from the Highlands which peculiarly composed the territories of the ancient Gaelic or Celtic tribes. As, however, the whole of Scotland north of the line just mentioned is commonly regarded as belonging to the Highlands, including the Hebrides, the Orkney and Shetland Isles, many districts of which, both in form and population, are decidedly *lowland*, we shall undertake to guide the tourist through all the northern counties and islands, with the exception of the eastern coast south of Aberdeen; and many places also beyond the Highland boundary, will be at least partially described.

This great tract of country, as its name denotes, is of a mountainous character. The mountains vary greatly in elevation as well as form: their greatest height being about 4400 feet, while they often exhibit groups and clusters of nearly uniform magnitude, sometimes about 1000, sometimes 2000, and occasionally 3000 feet and upwards above the sea. In general, the principal chains of mountains extend across the country in a direction from S.W. to N.E., and the larger valleys which intervene between them have a parallel direction; while the intersecting openings, or lateral valleys, observe no such regularity. The eastern side of the north of Scotland for the most part presents a continuous unbroken line of coast, while the western is indented by numberless narrow arms of the sea. This latter coast, also, is flanked by clusters of large islands, of varied aspect, with smaller ones interspersed among them, forming an almost unbroken breastwork between the ocean and the mainland; while the eastern shore, on the other hand, is entirely defenceless, and exposed to the entire force of the German Ocean. The mountains of the west coast generally possess a more verdant and less of a heathery aspect than those in the interior and the opposite shore Their acclivities are also more abrupt, and their forms more picturesque. A further strongly distinctive character between the east and west coasts, is, that the mountainous ranges in general subside much more towards the former. The inclination of the surface of the country on

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this side being thus more lengthened, its rivers have a more prolonged course, and are consequently of greater body—as the Tay, Dee, Spey, Findhorn, Beauly, Carron, and Oikel, with which there are hardly any streams that can compare on the western side of the island; and several of their estuaries also assume the characters of extensive firths, while on the west they do not attain such dimensions as, in any case north of the Clyde, to be so designed. Patches of arable ground are cultivated in the less elevated portion of the uplands, fertility and cultivation increasing with the descent of the valleys; and, on the sea-coasts, rich and luxuriant crops are seen gladdening the face of nature. Except on the eastern shore, however, there is, on the whole, no great extent of cultivated land. Here the level and sloping tracts are most extensive: to this side the towns are chiefly confined, and consequently greater wealth exists to stamp its impress on the scenery, and the exports of grain and other produce from Caithness and the east coast of Ross and Inverness-shire are considerable. Native woods, chiefly of pine and birch, clothe the declivities in many parts of the Highlands, overhanging generally the banks of lakes and streams; and the planting of hardwood and larch has of late greatly extended the woodland. The west coast rarely presents any breadth of wood, though it is occasionally adorned with trees; but on both sides, and in all parts of the country, the remains of very large trees of oak and fir are found under gravel banks and in peat mosses.

A surface so diversified necessarily exhibits, within very circumscribed limits, varieties of scenery of the most opposite descriptions; enabling the admirer of nature to pass abruptly from dwelling on the loveliness of an extensive marine or champaign landscape into the deep solitude of an ancient forest, or the dark craggy fastnesses of an alpine ravine; or from lingering amid the quiet grassy meadows of a pastoral strath or valley, watered by its softly flowing stream, to the open heathy mountain-side, whence "alps o'er alps arise," whose summits are often shrouded with mists and almost perennial snows, and their overhanging precipices furrowed by deep torrents and foaming cataracts. Lakes and long arms of the sea, either fringed with woods or surrounded with rocky, barren, and mossy shores, now studded with islands, and anon extending their silvery arms into distant receding mountains, are met in

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every district; while the extreme steepness, ruggedness, and sterility of many of the mountain chains, impart to them as imposing and magnificent characters as are to be seen in the much higher and more inaccesible elevations of Switzerland. No wonder, then, that this "land of mountain and of flood" should have given birth to the song of the bard, and afforded material for the theme of the sage in all ages; that its inhabitants should be tinctured with deep romantic feelings, at once tender, melancholy, and wild; and that the recollection of their own picturesque native dwellings should haunt them to their latest hours, wherever they go. Neither, amid such profusion and diversity of all that is beautiful and sublime in nature, can the unqualified admiration of strangers, from every part of Europe, of the scenery of the Highlands, fail of being easily accounted for; nor can any hesitate in recommending them to visit the more remote or unknown solitudes.*

* The following sketch, in this foot-note, of the Geology of the Highlands, may not be unacceptable to some of our readers:—

The great central mass of the Highlands consists of rough old *primitive* or crystalline rocks—those of Argyleshire, in the extreme south-west, being chiefly *mica* and *argillaceous schists*, succeeded, on the north, towards Glencoe and Ben-Nevis, by huge mountains of the most ancient *porphyritic* or eruptive rocks. The Lennox, Perth, and Inverness shires, consist, for the most part, of *gneiss* rocks, through which *granite*, in mountain masses and veins, has protruded in almost every direction—the great central ridge of the Grampians being principally composed of that rock; which thence descends, in wide moorish plateaus, through the heights of Banff and Aberdeen shires, and projects itself into the German Ocean in the shape of long headlands and ranges of mural precipices. Ross and Sutherland shires also abound most in *gneiss*; but some of their most rugged and picturesque portions—such as those about Loch Duich, Loch Maree, and Gairloch—consist of *mica slate*, a rock which presents a more serrated and deeply-cleft surface than perhaps any other in Scotland. It is yet questionable whether these rocks are not older than the similar *Silurian* deposits of Wales, the Isle of Man, and the north of England.

All these great central masses of what are called primitive rocks, were encased in an enormous frame-work of the *Devonian old red sandstone*, and its associated conglomerate; which may be traced almost uninterruptedly along the whole southern flank of the Grampians, and thence northwards, with very few breaks, into the basin of the Moray Firth. With the exception of a small number of protruding ridges and summits of *granitic rocks*, the whole shores of this firth are composed of this *old red sandstone*; which, no doubt, at one time, extended its layers across from side to side; and above and upon which, from the few traces of them still remaining, deposits of *lias* and *oolitic* shales, grits, and limestones, appear to have rested. Perhaps these were also surmounted by members of the *chalk* formation—rolled masses of which have been discovered in Banff and Aberdeen shires; while in one or two places, as at Elgin, singular local deposits of the era of the *green sand* occur, with their peculiar and characteristic fossils. The amenity of the climate, and fertility of the soil, round all the shores of the Moray Firth, are owing, in no small degree, to their being formed of members of the *old red sandstone* series; which, in Caithness, extend themselves out in enormous flat or undulating plains of bituminous and calcareous shales and freestones; bestowing on that country, except along the sea-cliffs, a dead and uninteresting outline. Almost all the bays and headlands along the north coast, from the Pentland Firth westwards, are skirted or tipped with the remains of the same great old sandstone frame; which, as we round Cape Wrath, soon meets us again in enormous sheets and masses, composing the greater portion of the coast as far

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2. In speaking of Highland *hill* property, as to extent, (excluding the lower and more fertile portions,) miles may, without any great exaggeration, be substituted for acres, to indicate a possession of a value corresponding with a Lowland estate. In the assessment of real property in 1815, the annual ascertained value of all the Highland counties, including Orkney and Zetland, with the exception of Perth, Stirling, and Dumbarton shires, was £647,441 ; while the real property of Fife and Dumfries shires, as assessed at the same time, was £701,391. But the population of the Highland counties is double that

south as Applecross, and rising, in the interior of Sutherland, into huge detached peaks and pinnacles, apparently of red horizontal masonry. The sandstones on this side of the island are distinguished by their superior hardness and crystalline texture; and have by some, especially in the neighbourhood of gneiss and mica slate, been described as a sort of *primitive sandstone*.

The Hebrides are naturally divided into two groups: the *outer*, which consists almost exclusively of gneiss rocks; and the *inner*, comprehending Mull, Staffa, Eig, Rum, and Skye, which, with their dependent islets, consist of a basis for the most part of secondary sandstones and limestone, out of which have arisen, from the internal fiery nucleus of the earth, enormous overlying, and, in some cases, overflowing masses and mountains of trap rocks, chiefly greenstone, syenite, basalt, hyperstene, and an endless variety of pitchstone, claystone, and felspar porphyries, with their associated crystals and simple minerals. The precise localities of the most interesting of all these deposits will be mentioned in our subsequent chapters.

The Highlands and Islands of Scotland exhibit in every direction the most unequivocal traces of all the recent changes which have affected this portion of the globe. The principal valleys and mountains appear to have received their present forms before the British isles uprose from the deep; and everywhere the enormous quantities of *rolled stones* or *boulders*, and of *sand and gravel*, not only betoken the immense abrading forces to which the rocks were exposed, but those rounded fragments, by their deposition in regular *banks* and *terraces*, also indicate the successive heights at which the ocean, or some other great mass of water, stood at long and different periods. Every valley and hill side exhibit such appearances; and a series of corresponding terraces may be seen extending to at least 1800 feet above the present sea level. The most marked and general sea margin, however, is one which encircles the island with an almost continuous ring, at an elevation of from 90 to 120 feet. This great terraced bank is beautifully displayed on the sea-coast in almost every part of the Highlands, and in the cliffs above it, as at the Sutors of Cromarty and elsewhere, lines of caverns may be seen marking other elevations at which the sea had previously stood. The distinction observable in the Isle of Man—and so fully described by the Rev. J. G. Cumming in his interesting account of that island—between the *boulder clay* and the *drift gravel* of these later deposits, may also be traced throughout the Highlands of Scotland, and especially around Inverness, the former being the *undermost*, but rising up from beneath the gravel banks to a higher elevation, and often to the very tops of the hills. This *boulder clay* is the cause of the superior fertility of some of our higher ridges, and in it are entombed by far the largest of our *erratic blocks*. All the phenomena of *scratching*, *grooving*, and *polishing*, so characteristic of what is called the *Glacial theory* of the denudation and transport of rocks, are likewise abundantly exemplified throughout the country. And lastly, the remains of the *Irish Elk*, and of enormous trunks of *Oak and Pine* (with which no living examples in this country can compare), imbedded in our peat mosses and quagmires, both on the mainland and adjoining islands, betoken the extent and universal diffusion of the ancient Caledonian forests, while the great size of those remains excites a doubt whether a considerable change of climate has not taken place since the era in which they existed. References will be given in the body of this book to particular localities where all the phenomena alluded to may be distinctly seen.

of the latter. The county of Perth was estimated at within £100,000 of all the rest of the Highlands.*

3. The great mass of the population of the Highlands is unquestionably of Celtic origin; those Celts being (according to Mr. Skene, the latest essayist on this obscure point) identical with the Picts, and the descendants of the ancient Caledonians of Roman authors. With the Pictish inhabitants were afterwards incorporated the Scots, of the same Celtic stock, who, from the north of Ireland, colonised the south-west of Scotland, during the period between the third and the sixth centuries. The Scots did not acquire a firm footing till the Romans had abandoned Britain. They contended for the mastery with the Picts for about 400 years, both nations merging into one in the ninth century. The northern Picts, however, kept themselves greatly separate, and owned only a nominal submission to the Scottish line of kings; and, retaining their ancient territories and language, they were the real ancestors of the modern Gael or Highlanders. The upper classes, however, were to some extent of Scandinavian, more immediately of Norman origin, and, on the west coast, of Danish or Norwegian lineage. In the reign of Malcolm III., or *Ceanmore*, partly in consequence of his marriage with Margaret, sister of Atheling the Saxon, Norman barons banished from his court began to effect settlements in the Highlands. The Saxons are thought to have confined themselves to the Lowlands. On the appearance of these strangers and their followers, feudal policy came to be gradually blended with the old patriarchal or Celtic system, which differed materially from feudalism. Society assumed the as-

* The assessed values of the different Highland counties, and their population, in 1831 and 1841, are as follow:—

	Real Value in 1842 for Property Tax.	Population. 1831.	Population. 1841.
Argyle	£262,273 8 9	101,425	97,140
Bute		14,151	15,695
Caithness	66,572 3 10	34,529	36,197
Inverness	182,064 7 2	94,797	97,615
Orkney and Zetland	42,767 6 7	58,239	60,007
Ross and Cromarty	143,214 10 10	74,820	78,058
Sutherland	36,112 19 8	25,518	24,666
Perth	613,167 12 1	142,894	138,151
Elgin	98,114 11 5	34,231	34,994
Nairn	16,795 18 8		
	£1,461,082 19 1	580,604	582,523
Whole of Scotland	£9,418,742 8 5	2,365,807	2,628,957

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pect of a population divided into numerous communities, the members of each of which had gradually amalgamated into a state of complete subordination of all to one common head. We have presented, in the annals of the Highlands, till within no very distant period, the spectacle of the most faithful attachment on the part of inferiors to their superiors, though it partook of a servile and dependent character. The sentiments of the upper ranks were ordinarily marked by kindness and concern for the lower orders; but these, again, were often vitiated by coarseness, and the proud selfishness characteristic of an ignorant and barbarous age.

The separation of the tribes or clans from one another by name and lineage, was rendered more complete from the rugged nature of the country. In addition to a distinction of surname and patronymics, the clans had each a different slogan or war-cry, and a peculiar badge, generally some species of shrub, as the juniper, yew, holly, &c., worn in the bonnet, and likewise a distinct variety of checkered dress or tartan. They were remarkable for their jealousy of one another, and of the association of men into towns, where society is held together by principles and for purposes at variance with those of clanship. Constant feuds and animosities, rapine, violence, and bloodshed, were the unavoidable consequences of such a state of society. The warlike spirit of the Highlanders was kept alive by the incursions, in more early periods, of the Scandinavians, and by the abiding occasions of aggression on their own part to spoil the rich possessions of their Saxon and other Lowland neighbours. Hospitality there was, but of a barbaric and licentious character. The domestic affections existed in great strength; but there was little of philanthropy or comprehensive sympathy with their fellow men. Indeed, the kindlier feelings of our nature were, in Highlanders of the olden time, unavoidably confined to a narrow range of objects, and the renovating doctrines and principles of Christianity were most imperfectly understood and practised. Considerable urbanity and politeness of demeanour prevailed among the gentry; but gross ignorance overspread the mass; and all the arts of peace were at the lowest ebb. The chiefs resided in strongholds, each generally a square tower of four or five single apartments, with perhaps some adjoining buildings, and having at times a walled court. Their household economy was distinguished by abundance—at least of animal

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food. The residences of the ranks next in grade were mean, small, and comfortless; while the peasantry, as is too universally the case at the present day, were sheltered by dingy turf or dry stone huts, with bare earthen floors; than which it is impossible to conceive abodes for human beings more squalid and wretched. They were at the same time poorly fed; but were, however, uncommonly hardy and athletic. Their undaunted courage and energetic strength, and their prowess in the use of their favourite weapons, the claymore, dirk, and targe, rendered their very name a terror to the industrious but more peaceful Lowlander.

4. After the rebellion of 1745, a memorial was drawn up for government, it is conjectured by President Forbes, which gives the subjoined estimate of the force of able-bodied men which the respective clans could bring into the field.*

* Argyle (Campbells)	3000
Breadalbane (ditto)	1000
Lochnell and other chieftains of the Campbells	1000
Macleans	500
Maclachlans	200
Stewart of Appin	300
Macdougals	200
Stewart of Grandtully	300
Clan Gregor	700
Duke of Athole (Stewarts, Robertsons, &c.)	3000
Farquharsons	500
Duke of Gordon (followers from Glenlivet and Strathavon)	300
Grant of Grant	850
Mackintosh	800
Macphersons	400
Frasers	900
Grant of Glenmoriston	150
Chisholms	200
Duke of Perth (followers from Glenartnie, &c.)	300
Seaforth (Mackenzies)	1000
Cromarty, Scatwell, Gairloch, with other chieftains of the Mackenzies	1500
Menzies	300
Munroes	300
Rosses	500
Sutherlands	2000
Mackays	800
Sinclairs	1100
Macdonald of Slate	700
Macdonald of Clanranald	700
Macdonell of Glengarry	500
Macdonell of Keppoch	300
Macdonald of Glencoe	130
Robertsons	200
Camerons	800
Mackinnon	200
Macleod	700
The Duke of Montrose, Earls of Bute and Moray, Macfarlanes, Colquhouns, M'Neils of Barra, M'Nabs, M'Naughtons, Lamonts, &c., &c.	5600
	31,930

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Several septs of other names than those mentioned in this list were among the followers of some of the more powerful chieftains. In point of dress, the kilt, a sort of plaited petticoat, reaching to the knees, with the plaid, was universally worn by the ordinary Highlander, while the lower garment of the upper ranks was the trews, consisting of breeches and hose of one piece. The bagpipe was also the common instrument of music.

The distribution of the various clans throughout the Highlands was, and still is, as underneath.*

5. The Western Isles were long subject to the sway of Norway; and though, on the discomfiture of Haco's armament in the thirteenth century, they were transferred to the dominion of the crown of Scotland, its sovereignty was for a long period not recognised by the powerful kings or lords of the Isles, who maintained a state of independent and supreme rule. Their strength was first materially weakened by the subdivision of the family estates among the numerous sons of the two families of John of Isla, by Amy, great-great-grand-daughter of Reginald,

* *Argyleshire:* Campbells; and on the N. W. of the county and in Mull, Macdougals, Stewarts of Appin, Maclachlans, Macleans; and M'Allisters in part of Cantyre.

Dumbarton and Stirling shires, and adjoining parts of Perth and Argyle: M'Gregors, Macfarlanes, Colquhouns, M'Nabs, M'Naughtons, &c.

Perthshire: Stewarts, Robertsons, Menzies, &c.

Aberdeen and Banff shires: Farquharsons, Forbeses, and Gordons.

Inverness-shire: Grants, Mackintoshes, Macphersons, Frasers, and Chisholms, on the east; and Camerons, Macdonalds and Macdonells, Macleods and Mackinnons, on the west and in the islands.

Ross-shire: Mackenzies, with Munroes and Rosses in the east, and M'Raes in the west.

Sutherlandshire: Sutherlands, Mackays, Gunns.

Caithness: Sinclairs.

The annals of the Iona Club, recently published, have completely disproved the theory that the *kilt* and parti-coloured *tartan plaid* are of modern origin, and shew that from the time of Magnus Barefoot, anno 1093, the Highlanders were always described as the "*bare-legged* or *red-shanked*, *wild* or *rough-footed* Scottes, clothed with ane *mantle*, with ane shirt—*saffroned*," their "delight being in *marled clothes*, specially that have long stripes, of *sundry* colours, and chiefly *purple* and *blew*," the women's plaid differing only from the men's in its smaller size, being "*white*, with a few small stripes of *black*, *blue*, and *red*." Martin, Dean of the Isles, says in his history, (edition 1716), in what may be looked on as a summary of his own, and of all previous observations on the question, that "every *Isle* differed from each other in their fancy of making *plaids*, as to the *stripes*, in *breadth* and *colour*. This humour is also as different through the *mainland* of the *Highlands*, in so far as that they who have seen those places, are able, at the first view of a man's plaid, to guess the place of his residence." The chiefs, besides the eagle's plume in the bonnet, often wore costly and richly dyed stuffs in their coats and vests, with slashed sleeves of scarlet cloth and gold lace—long plaited hair, and numerous studs and clasps of silver in their belts, and occasionally even a polished steel helmet. *Green* is now believed to characterise the tartans of clans having an Irish descent, as the Mackenzies; *red*, of the pure British Celt, as the Rosses and Clan Gregor; and *yellow*, the Danish clans, as the Macleods.

King of Man, and Margaret, daughter of Robert II. of Scotland, and the severely contested battle of Harlaw, fought by Donald of the Isles, in 1411, on occasion of an enterprise undertaken to make good his pretensions to the earldom of Ross. This was followed by the overthrow of Alexander in Lochaber, and by several determined measures of James I. and the succeeding Scottish kings.

In general, the Scottish kings observed the policy of sowing disunion and promoting feuds among the clans; and James V. pursued, with partial success, vigorous measures to bring them to some sort of obedientiall acknowledgment of the head of the state; but the inaccessible nature of the country rendered the allegiance of its rude inhabitants and stormy chieftains little more than nominal, as regarded public police and good government. As if, however, to make amends for their habitual disregard of any authority but their own will, the Highlanders were prompt to rally round the standard of royalty when in distress. The Argyleshire and Sutherland Highlanders, however, form an exception. They were always of Whig and presbyterian principles. To them might be added the Rosses and Munroes. The Frasers, Mackintoshes, and Grants, were also covenanting clans; but the two former took part in the later rebellions, the latter clan but partially. On the various occasions of mutual co-operation, the Highland clans signalised themselves by achievements of a truly remarkable character, considering their small numerical strength; as, for instance, in Montrose's wars, Dundee's campaign, and the rebellions of 1715 and 1745.

6. Though no decided impression was made on their condition till the two latter risings, all these seasons of combined effort were attended with some effect on the manners and ideas of the various tribes. The soldiery stationed by Cromwell, in the forts constructed by him, had also a considerable influence in introducing some traits of refinement. At last the formation of the military roads, and the disarming act in the period between the two rebellions, and subsequent to that of 1745 the abolition of heritable jurisdictions, ward-holdings, and of the Highland dress, and other coercive measures of government, completely broke up the ancient system. A new field of adventure was then unfolded to the young in civil and military professions in other parts of the kingdom, and a spirit of independence was engendered quite foreign to the former relations between

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the different classes of society. Now, no peculiarities, springing from any essential distinction in the constitution of the political and social body, exist between this and other portions of the empire; none but such as must continue to mark the several subdivisions of a country according to their elevation and the respective degrees of commercial intercourse and wealth.

The progress of the Highlands of Scotland towards an assimilation with the rest of the kingdom has, since the middle of last, but more particularly since the commencement of the present century, been singularly great, and its rapidity continually accelerating. About the year 1730, several lines of roads were formed by the Hanoverian soldiers, opening a communication along and from either extremity, and also from the centre of the Great Glen with the south of Scotland. In the year 1803, a parliamentary commission was appointed, under whose sanction about £267,000 of the public money has been expended, of which about £214,000 were advanced as the half of the expense of constructing about 875 additional miles of roads and bridges throughout the Highlands; the heritors of the several counties assessing themselves to defray the other half, (£214,000,) and £5000 a-year is allowed by government towards the repair of roads. Numberless district roads intersect these, formed by the statute-labour and local Road Acts, and other means. In the county of Sutherland alone, there has been formed, since 1812, nearly 300 miles of road of this latter description, with assistance from the Sutherland family, at an expense of about £40,000, affording three lines from north to south, and another along the north coast, and the southern boundary of the county.

7. The canals, roads, inns, and modes of conveyance now existing in the Highlands, are described in the body of this work, and it only remains for us to add, in this general survey, that the residences of the better classes in the Highlands are now provided with the usual comforts and conveniences of life; but the poorer peasantry and labourers are often found immured, especially in the west coast, in the most wretched huts, built chiefly of uncemented turf, with a total disregard to neatness or cleanliness.

8. The chief export products of the Highlands and Islands, are sheep, wool, black cattle, wood, kelp, herrings, cod-fish, and salmon; and of late years, from the east of Ross and Inverness,

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and from Caithness, wheat, oats, and potatoes. They are dependent on other parts of the kingdom for groceries, and for most haberdashery, hardware, and other manufactured goods. By the appropriation of certain balances from the estates which were forfeited in the rebellions of last century, about £53,000 has been expended on harbours and piers; sums having been advanced to individuals undertaking the completion of works to double the amount received, making a total of £110,000 laid out on these objects by this means. The exertions of the Highland Society of London, instituted in 1778, and that of Scotland, founded in Edinburgh in 1783, have been eminently beneficial in fostering and quickening the capabilities of the country. The objects of the former association are to preserve the language, dress, music, and poetry of the Gael. Several societies in Scotland address themselves to similar purposes, as the Celtic Society, the Highland Club of Scotland, and the St. Fillan's Highland Society. The attention of the Highland Society of Scotland is more immediately directed to the advancement of Agricultural improvement in its various ramifications, by all the appliances which such a great national institution can put in operation. And its efforts have been attended by the most marked success.

9. The modern system of sheep-farming on a great scale seems to have been too generally adopted, with an inconsiderate degree of expedition, in some districts of the Highlands. It is incompatible with the presence of a promiscuous population, unconnected with the charge of the stock, and the consequence of its introduction has accordingly been the dispossession of the inhabitants; and that often on a sudden, without sufficient care being taken to open up to them, on the coasts, or elsewhere, new sources of livelihood, and without due respect to the propriety and expediency of dealing tenderly with their local predilections and deeply-rooted habits. The rearing of cattle is not so prejudiced by an intermixture of small crofters, or cottagers, and requires a greater number of dependents. It is problematical whether the rentals of Highland estates might not have benefited by a more limited system of sheep-farming; while the condition of the tenantry in general, and the peasantry, would have been improved thereby. It is difficult to form any conjecture as to the total sheep stock, or yearly produce in sheep and wool, of the whole of the Highlands. But from the

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statistical information procured for a railway company projected in 1846, with the view of opening up the communication with the southern markets, and developing the resources of the north and central Highlands, it would appear that even in the present backward state of things, there are annually exported by land from the Highland counties (excluding the maritime shires of Banff, Aberdeen, and Argyleshire, and the Lennox), about 200,000 head of sheep in a lean condition, of which about 40,000 proceed from Perthshire alone, and the rest from the northern shires; that Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, and part of Moray shires, send south about 40,000 head of lean cattle, and Perthshire and the south Highlands about as many more; that from the distance and difficulties of getting to market, the *fattening* of sheep and cattle for the butcher has scarcely commenced in the Highlands; and that the improvement of the stocks, by changes of breed from the south, is as yet, from the same causes, very slow. Instead, therefore, of hill produce being frequently and expeditiously disposed of, the Highland farmer can only get rid of it once or twice a-year, and that in a *lean* condition, and at great risk and expense. An annual great wool fair is held at Inverness in the month of July, but though sometimes upwards of 100,000 stones of wool, and as many sheep, change owners at it, the sales are often dull, and the grower has to consign his stock to brokers in Glasgow and Liverpool. Great numbers of sheep are still sent south on foot, across the hills, and the black cattle follow them in large droves; and the animals so driven south generally pass into English hands at the great trysts at Falkirk.

10. The Highland black cattle are of a small size, but their beef is of a peculiarly delicate quality. For the disposal of them, various trysts, or markets, are held throughout and on the southern borders of the Highlands. Along with the droves of cattle, parcels of Highland ponies are driven, which are of a small size, but strong and hardy. Of these, a considerable number are destined for the north of England coal mines. Both cattle and ponies are supplied in greatest numbers by the west coast and islands. Highland ponies are capable of enduring great fatigue. The larger breed of horses, when well cared for, form stout, hardy, and serviceable animals. Crosses with south-country horses are now general for agricultural purposes, draught, and riding.

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11. Highland timber consists chiefly of pine or fir, and birch. The former, when not of native growth, is mostly disposed of in the shape of short props for the coal mines. About 200 or 300 cargoes of props, logs, and deals, are shipped annually from the Moray Firth: the average value of a cargo of props does not exceed £30 or £40. Coals and lime are brought back in return: birch is used for herring-barrel staves, and for domestic utensils and farm implements. Oak coppice is chiefly valuable for the charcoal and pyroligneous acid which it yields; and larger stems of oak, ash, and elm, are now exported in considerable quantities. There are, however, enormous plantations of fir and larch shooting up in all parts of the country, and especially in the interior, which cannot be turned to their full use until the communication by railway is opened up. Thus, in the inland portions of Inverness and Nairn shires alone (away from the sea), there are upwards of 50,000 acres under wood; in Perthshire, on the line of the great north road, there are 26,000 acres of woodland; and the rest of the county must contain double that quantity. The yearly exports of timber at present from the ports of the Moray Firth alone, amount to about 50,000 tons.

12. There is generally manufactured about 8000 tons of kelp on the coasts of the western Highlands and Islands; from 2000 to 3000 tons in Orkney and Zetland; and probably from 1000 to 1500 tons on the north and east coasts of Sutherland and Caithness. During the last war, kelp often sold for £20 a ton; but since the introduction of Spanish barilla and other substitutes, it has fallen in price from a half to a fourth of that sum. From a new alkaline product which kelp has lately been found to contain, it is to be hoped that its value will yet greatly rise. The expense of cutting, drying, and burning the ware is from £3 to £4 a ton.

13. The seas of the north of Scotland abound with valuable products; a fact which the industrious Dutch, for a long period of time, turned to the most profitable account. Two centuries ago, that people were in the habit of sending as many as 1500 and even 2000 busses, of eighty tons each, to prosecute the herring fishery off the coast of Shetland, besides several hundred doggers of about sixty tons' burthen to fish for cod and ling. For the latter, also, they carried on an extensive barter with the Shetland fishers. Towards the end of the seventeenth century, the Dutch herring busses, from wars with this country,

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and other causes, had decreased to 500 or 600, and they continued to diminish still farther during the eighteenth century, and have now almost disappeared from our coasts. Yet, seventy years ago, they had 200 busses employed on the Shetland fishings; and the Danes, Prussians, French, and Flemings, as many more; while the English had only two vessels, and the Scotch but one. Public societies for the encouragement of the British fisheries have been formed at various times in this country, since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, previous to the society now established, but they were short-lived, and their success was very partial. No attention was bestowed on the herring fishery till the year 1750, when a company was incorporated, which, however, eventually broke up, with a loss of £500,000 sterling. The present British Fishery Society was established in 1780. Parliament has frequently granted bounties for the encouragement of the fisheries; but as, till of late, they were paid on the tonnage, and not on the quantity of fish taken, vessels went out rather to catch the bounty than anything else. For some years back, bounties for fishing herring have been found quite unnecessary, and are now discontinued. Several fishing villages, as Tobermory, Ullapool, and Pulteney Town, near Wick, owe their origin to the British Fishery Society.

On being forsaken by their old friends the Dutch, the Shetland proprietors were obliged, in order to enable their impoverished tenants to prosecute the ling fishery (to which they had previously directed much of their attention), to advance the purchase price of their boats and tackling, and, in return, the fishers became bound to dispose of the produce of their labours to their landlords at a stipulated price; and this sort of tenure still prevails among these islanders to this day. It was not till about thirty years ago that even a feeble revival (by means of a few vessels of small burthen) was attempted of the Shetland cod fishery, but since then it has been cultivated with great success, and may yet be improved so as to become a source of much national wealth; for a prodigiously large cod, ling, and tusk bank has been discovered, extending all the way from the north of Orkney to the west of Shetland. There is every reason to believe that a similar bank lies to the westward of the Hebrides; and the spirited gentry of those isles are beginning to look after it.

14. The herring fishery was at one time a source of great

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profit to the inhabitants of the west coast of Scotland ; but it has of late somewhat fallen off in that direction, and been prosecuted with most signal and daily increasing success on the eastern shores. However, there are occasional great takes of herring in the salt-water inlets on the west coast. In 1840, about £20,000 worth of herring were cured in Loch Torridon ; and, in 1841, as much as to the value of perhaps £50,000 in Loch Duich. It is singular, that this economical article of food is still so little used in the great manufacturing towns of England.

Of the quantity of salmon cured, and the value of the fishery, we cannot speak with any certainty, as the exports of this fish, though very considerable, vary much every year. Including the Dee and the Don, there are, north of the Tay, twenty-five salmon-fishing rivers of various importance, some of them yielding several thousand pounds' rent. Besides which, the stake-net fisheries, along the coasts of the firths and arms of the sea, return an additional revenue. This branch of the fisheries has been greatly overwrought, and salmon in consequence are much scarcer than they used to be : the subsisting law, which makes the same *close time* (from the 14th September to the 2d of February) to be observed all over Scotland, having also proved injurious, being opposed to the habits of the fish in different rivers.

15. Besides these fish, haddock, cod, whiting, skate, flounders, rock cod, and cuddies, abound in most places. The haddock is rare on the west coast, (except towards the south,) but its place is supplied by a fine firm fish, of somewhat similar form, called the lythe. A new trade has lately commenced between the north of Scotland and the London markets, in that most valuable of our white fish, the *haddock*, which are now being picked up in vast quantities by steamers and quick sailing vessels from the fishing boats, just as they are caught, and brought to market either fresh or in a half cured state. The supply is inexhaustible, and the demand in our great cities and manufacturing towns for this fish is steadily increasing. When smoked and dried, the haddock is becoming a staple article of food in many places, under the names, from Aberdeen, of *Finnan Haddies*, or of *Speldings*, from other places. Turbot are to be had in the Moray Firth, but unfortunately the fishermen have not directed their attention to them. They are,

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however, industriously fished in the Firth of Clyde. Soles are rarely to be seen in Scotland, as are also mullet, gurnets, and the many varieties taken on the coasts of England. Shell-fish naturally accompany the others enumerated. Crabs are common; lobsters are met with in many places; oysters are rare, except in some parts of the west coast, whence they are occasionally brought to market in Inverness and other towns, but by attention it is believed their numbers might be greatly increased. Mussels (used chiefly for bait) abound on all our coasts; and as care has lately been taken to preserve and increase the spawn, the mussel banks belonging to our sea-ports and villages are becoming sources of great revenue to them. Those of Inverness and Tain are already worth to each about £100 a-year. Neither shrimps nor prawns fancy our northern latitudes; but cockles occur in great quantities, and, where best, form a highly palatable dish. Our mountain lakes, rivers, and streams, afford, besides salmon, great varieties and abundance of trout. The char, or mountain salmon, is found only occasionally, and in the higher lochs. Pike of great size occur in many lakes; but the presence of these voracious animals is not desired, on account of their monopolising propensities.

16. Among the products of the Highlands, game must not be omitted, being matter of very general interest, and now no inconsiderable source of profit to many Highland proprietors. Grouse, till of late, abounded in most parts of the Highlands, but now they have been greatly reduced in number by sportsmen, by the treading of the sheep and shepherd's dogs, and by various diseases, especially the *tape-worm*. Partridges and hares are common in the low grounds: the ptarmigan and mountain hare confine themselves to the rocky summits of the highest mountains. Pheasants are being introduced in policies on the outskirts of the Highlands and in the Hebrides. Black game or heath fowl abound in most of the younger plantations and coppices, as also woodcocks; and great numbers of wild ducks, snipes, and other water-fowl, in the lakes and marshes. The stately red deer keeps far remote from the haunts of man, but they are still numerous in the more secluded wilds, and are now greatly on the increase. Roe are frequent in the lower coverts. Deer-stalking requires patience, and some hardiness of constitution. Hunting is out of the question, and, indeed, coursing is hardly attempted; in the interior, and most of the west coast,

not at all. The deer-stalker must use the arts and dexterity of the Indian in looking for his prey. The hare is pursued with greyhounds, or the gun; while foxes, badgers, &c., must be unearthed by the aid of the little wiry Scotch terrier. It has now become a common practice for Highland proprietors to let the right of shooting on their grounds. Moors may be had at all prices, from £50 to £700 for the season, with accommodations varying according to circumstances. Mr. Snowie, gunmaker in Inverness, is the chief agent in the north Highlands between the proprietors of game and the sportsmen, and he regularly advertises the shootings which are to let. His arrangements alone, extend over a rental amounting in some years to between £7000 and £8000. His returns for seventy-six shootings, three years ago, were 55,700 brace of grouse killed in the season, and 288 deer from twenty-six places where deer and roe occur. More precise and extensive information is not to be got at present; but we know that, in the estimates of railway traffic submitted to Parliament not long ago, there were *data* procured for believing that the conveyance of game and small parcels from the northern counties alone, would yield about £3500 a-year, and of private carriages (chiefly used by sportsmen), horses, and dogs, within a thousand pounds of the same sum.

17. Oat and barley meal, with potatoes (until the partial failure of that root within the last three years), form the staple articles of food of the mass of the population, to which the peasantry add, when they can, a few herrings, and, on the coasts, the other varieties of fish; but butcher's meat is a rarity they are seldom able to afford. In the neighbourhood of towns, and even throughout the country, the farmers willingly give permission, to such as please to avail themselves of it, to plant with potatoes as much land as they can supply with manure; and thus many poor people, who are neither farm-servants, nor possess crofts of their own, contrive to eke out a part of their subsistence, by accumulating moss, fern, potato stems, sea ware, and whatever else may serve as a component part of a dung-heap. In the towns and villages, the bulk of the population earn their livelihood as artisans, carters and day labourers; but, with a few trifling exceptions, there are no manufacturing establishments. The distillation of smuggled spirits is now, from the low price of whisky, and the efficiency of the excise, except in remote districts, happily nearly abolished. It had a most de-

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moralising effect in those districts where it prevailed, giving rise to idleness, duplicity, and dissipation. The crews of the revenue cutters, of whom about two-thirds are constantly patroling the country under an officer of excise, have, at a cost of only £8000 a-year, been the chief means of suppressing smuggling. Many of the poor Highlanders earn a pound or two by annually migrating in bands to the low country to assist in reaping the harvest; and, when they can get employment as labourers on railways, they are eager to avail themselves of it. In the herring-fishing season, thousands, who have throughout the rest of the year no connexion with the sea, abandon their usual occupations for a couple of months, and, as fishermen and fish-curers, earn handsome though dear-bought wages. The clothing of the lower orders is often wrought at home by themselves, and is ordinarily of a blue colour. Plaiding and tartan are still a good deal worn; but the kilt is only occasionally met with. Except in Caithness, where, as in Orkney and Zetland, English is exclusively spoken, Gaelic is still the prevailing language in the Highlands, particularly in the Hebrides, and the western and inland parts of Argyle, Inverness, Ross, and Sutherland shires. The amended poor law of 1845 has been put in force in all the parishes; but notwithstanding, poverty and wretchedness prevail to a most alarming extent. The landlords cannot give full employment or subsistence; and hence government has been appealed to, to afford funds necessary for transporting the population in large numbers to the colonies. In the present state of agriculture and of the fisheries, and the almost exclusive appropriation of the land to sheep, any sensible relief by means of emigration alone, would be experienced only by its being conducted on a very extensive scale indeed. Like the Irish, the poor Highlander has been forced hitherto to seek his bread *from home;* and the little education he gets to qualify him for doing so, he owes as much to the exertions of benevolent societies and individuals in the south, as to the institutions or liberality of the native proprietors and inhabitants. Many impolitic and harsh *clearances* of the people have been carried through within the last sixty years. The ignorance and want of skill in agriculture in the peasantry, and their undue increase in certain localities after the decline of the kelp trade, formed the chief pretext for such wholesale removals; but the real causes, no doubt, were the inordinate expectations formed by the proprietors of

the profits of *sheep* farming, and their want of capital to develope the resources of the country in the yield of grain and timber, and the capabilities of the fisheries. The throwing together of the poor people into crowded hamlets and villages, where it was attempted, in some instances, to make *artizans* and *manufacturers* of them, and in others to convert *rustics* into *fishermen*, with small patches of ground attached to their dwellings, insufficient, when used even as potato plots, for the support of their families, has also been a fruitful cause of destitution and pauperism throughout the Highlands. But the *clearances* carried out on the greatest scale were those in Sutherlandshire, which are more particularly described in another part of this book. These have been the subject of animadversion by numerous eminent authors, both foreign and domestic ; and they are now generally regretted, and by none, we believe, more than by the noble family in whose name they were effected. Ignorant of the habits, attachments, and even language of the *Celtic* tribes, the advisers of those measures hurried on improvements and arrangements which should have been extended over many years, and been carried through with much patience and tenderness towards a warm-hearted but easily excited people. Their pride and indignation were roused, and they either expatriated themselves in large bands, or, like the imaginative Arab deprived of his liberty, became *broken-hearted* and useless dependents.

18. These observations may well be concluded by a glance at the ecclesiastical history, and a few remarks on the state of education and religious instruction in the Highlands.

The name of Christ was first declared to the inhabitants of the Highlands by Columba (*Gallicæ* St. Callum or Malcolm), who came from Ireland, and settled in the island of Iona, about the year 560. He sailed from the Emerald Isle along with a small band of fellow *missionaries* (said to be twelve in number) in a little *currach* or *wicker boat;* and although he subsequently visited the south of Scotland, his labours were chiefly devoted to the conversion of the western and northern Picts—as his predecessor St. Ninian in the fifth century, and St. Kentigern or Mungo (founder of the see of Glasgow), and St. Patrick, a native of Dumbarton, who were almost his contemporaries, laboured among the Strathclyde Britons, and over the ancient kingdom of Cumbria, extending from Loch Lomond to Windermere and Furness and the confines of Yorkshire ; as well as

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among the Celtic tribes of Wales and Ireland. The church in Scotland was then unquestionably *missionary* or *monastic*, and did not become *parochial* or territorial till David I.'s time; and like its Irish mother, it traced its origin to the *Eastern* Church, not to that of Rome, whose first representative, St. Austin or Augustine, only set foot in Kent in the year 597, two years *after* St. Columba's death. Educated in one of the small monasteries instituted in the north of Ireland by St. Patrick, at a place called *Dearmach* (from its being near an *oak* forest), the Scottish apostle imbibed the simplicity and holy zeal of his preceptor; and when he and his brother monks landed at Iona, we find, from his historian Adamnan, that they retired for worship to a secluded *circle of upright stones*, previously, in all likelihood, a Druidical temple, whence they afterwards issued "to gather bundles of twigs to build their hospice." Their abodes were mere *wigwams;* their churches, for long after, no better than *log-houses* of "hewn oak;" and such was their humility, that they sought no better name than that of "*Cuildhich*" (Culdees), signifying, according to the received opinion in Iona, "the people that retire to corners," who worshipped God in dens and secret recesses of the woods, but "in spirit and in truth." *Hermits* they might be called, did they not, after being refreshed by meditation and prayer, go forth to preach. Accordingly, St. Columba penetrated to the most remote districts; and it is distinctly asserted by his contemporary biographers, that he laboured at Inverness "ad ostiam Nessiæ" to convert Brudeus, king of the northern Picts, at whose court also he held communications with a Scandinavian earl of Orkney. Churches were subsequently dedicated to him in all parts of the Highlands (as, for instance, *Kilcalmakil*, in the centre of Sutherlandshire); and the *Celtic* brethren who accompanied or immediately succeeded Columba, have their names recorded in very many of our parishes and churches, the *Gaelic* origin of which are readily distinguishable from the *Saxon* and *Norman* names prevalent on the *east* and *southern* coasts of Scotland, commemorative of *Romish* churchmen. Indeed, the exertions of individual saints or hermits prior to Columba, who seems to have acted more on a system of *Episcopal* arrangement, are now proved by undoubted records; and St. Ninian at Whitherne in the fifth century, and St. Kieran, the titular saint of Campbeltown in Argyleshire, and several others, laboured singly among

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the Dalriadic Scots of that county early in the sixth century. (See Mr. Howson's very valuable papers on the Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Argyle, in the Cambridge Camden Society's Transactions, Parts II. and III.) That these holy men retained much of apostolic Christianity, seems plain, from the character left of them by old writers. "They never stirred abroad but to gain souls. They preached more by example than word of mouth. The simplicity of their garb, gesture, and behaviour, was irresistibly eloquent. They did good to everybody, and sought no reward. Preferments, cabals, intrigues, division, sedition, were things unknown to them. There were bishops among them, but no lords; presbyters, but no stipends, or very small ones; monks truly such—humble, retired, poor, chaste, sober, and zealous. In a word, they were in a literal sense saints."—(*Ibid*, and Abercrombie's Mart. Ach. of Scotland, i., 106.) St. Columba and his disciples promoted all the "arts of peace," especially medicine and agriculture; and their cures and recipes have been handed down to this day, in Gaelic legendary rhymes constantly ascribed to them.

Among the Culdees the tonsure was cut according to the Eastern fashion; and the great festival of Easter, which regulates all the others, observed on the same day as in the East; but in other respects the venerable Bede, and the Irish Annals, prove the Church to have been completely *Episcopal* in its constitution, in the same sense as it was so throughout the rest of Christendom.* It long struggled against the supremacy and corruptions of the Church of Rome, which did not attain their full sway till the twelfth century, when popish monachism was introduced: and even in the end of the thirteenth century, some of the Culdees are found engaged in an unsuccessful opposition to the new intruders. The regular creation of Sees in the Highlands, under authority of the Crown, was, as follows, Mortlach (now Aberdeen), by Malcolm III. in 1010: Moray and Caithness, including Sutherland, most probably by the same prince. In the twelfth century, David I. founded, in addition to the existing sees, that of Dunkeld, to which Argyle was at first annexed; and he also constituted the bishopric of Ross. Alexander III., on the acquisition of the Western Isles, added the ancient bishopric of Sodor, or the Isles, to the national church. The Highlands and Islands were thus partitioned into the seven dioceses of Dunkeld, Argyle,

* See the subsequent account of Iona.

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Moray, Ross, the Isles, Caithness, and Orkney ; the last being most likely a Norwegian see, though Christianity was introduced to Orkney by St. Columba or his immediate followers. It is difficult to form a conjecture as to the probable number of the inferior clergy at this period, or the influence they and the doctrines which they taught acquired over the rude and stormy inhabitants. Certain it is, that a few faint rays of light continued to struggle against the darkness of feudal strife and clannish jealousy ; and the various religious establishments sent forth among the people teachers animated with a desire to lead them to a settled and peaceable mode of living ; while it is likewise unquestionable, that many who, either from bodily infirmity or a moral change of mind, found themselves unsuited to bear the coarse manners of their countrymen, retired to the seclusion of the cloister for protection and repose. The errors of popery, however, which had for a long time been strenuously resisted in this kingdom, overspread and characterized the church from the eleventh and twelfth centuries, even in the remote Highlands. At the Reformation, the religious houses, as detailed in Keith's Catalogue of the Scottish Bishops, were not numerous ; and they belonged chiefly to *regular* monks, who had not the spiritual charge of any particular district, or any cure of souls. They were situated as follows :—The *Canons Regular* had established houses at *Loch Tay*, on an island in that lake ; *Rowadill*, in the Isle of Harris ; *Crusay*, in the Western Isles ; in the islands of *Colonsay* and *Oronsay*, and *Insula St. Colmoci*, and *Inchmahome*, in the lake of Monteith ; at *Strathfillan*, in Breadalbane, and *Scarinche*, in the Isle of Lewis. The *Red Friars* had an establishment at *Dornoch*, in Sutherland ; the *Præmonastratenses* at *Fearn*, in Ross-shire ; the *Cluniacenses* at *Icolmkill*, in Iona ; the *Cistertians* at *Saddel*, in Cantyre ; the monks of *Valliscaullium* at *Beaulieu*, or Beauly, at the head of the Beauly Firth, and *Ardchattan*, on the side of Loch Etive, in Argyle : and the *Dominicans* were domiciled at *Inverness*. There appears to have been but one *nunnery*—at *Icolmkill*, in Iona ; and one *hospital*—at *Rothvan*, in Kiltarlity, Inverness-shire ; and only two *collegiate churches* for *secular canons*, namely, *Kilmun* in Cowal, Argyle ; and *Tain*, in Ross-shire, besides the cathedral churches of Dunkeld, Lismore, Fortrose, Dornoch, and Kirkwall. The diocesan church of Moray was the magnificent cathedral of Elgin, "the lantern of the north ;" and there were several

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abbeys and monasteries in that county, as Kinloss and Pluscardine.

Patrick Hamilton, called the first Scottish martyr for the doctrines of the Reformation, was an abbot of *Fearn*, in Rossshire; in which county and its neighbourhood, there is little doubt, he advocated the truth in primitive power, gentleness, and simplicity. Popery was finally abolished in 1560. Under the first constitution of the reformed church (which was a medium between Episcopacy and Presbyterianism, having superintendents to exercise Episcopal functions, but without any Episcopal consecration), it was intended that the Highlands should have had three of the ten superintendents appointed for the kingdom; and be divided into three districts—Orkney, Ross, and Argyle. The latter superintendency alone was filled up. On the remodelling of the form of church government in 1572, when a more decided episcopacy was introduced, the Highlands had five unconsecrated bishops, of the sees of Dunkeld, Moray, Argyle, Caithness, and Orkney. Presbyterianism, after a severe struggle with the power of the crown, was, for a time, fully established, in the year 1592. After various preparatory measures, bishops were restored to their temporal estate in 1606; and Presbyterianism abolished, and Episcopacy erected in its place in 1610. The bishops were regularly consecrated through the English hierarchy; and we find the Highlands divided, as of old, into the dioceses of Dunkeld, Argyle, Moray, Ross, the Isles, Caithness, and Orkney. By the acts of Assembly 1638, and of the Scottish Parliament 1640, Presbyterianism was reinstated, the bishops deposed, their order declared *unscriptural*, and all the clergy put on a footing of *equality*. On the Restoration, Episcopacy was again introduced, and ratified in 1662; and the former bishops having died, a new consecration, by the hands of the English bishops, took place, and the former sees in the Highlands were filled up. The order of things was, owing to the political principles of the Episcopalian clergy, once more reversed, and the Presbyterian form of government finally settled in 1690; and it subsequently formed part of the Articles of Union between the two kingdoms.

In the earlier years of the reformed church, the preachers being few, and all the natural obstacles of situation, poverty, and language, which, after the Revolution in 1688, long retarded the efforts made to supply the Highlands with a ministry,

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existing in full force, little generally effectual was done in the northern counties. Even in 1650, some districts, as Lochaber, had had no Protestant ministry planted in them. In others, however, some settlements were effected, very early after the Reformation. Several clergy, of both reformed persuasions, laboured in the north, in the beginning of the seventeenth century. In 1617, a commission was appointed by parliament, for planting of kirks and modifying stipends throughout Scotland; and to various succeeding commissions additional powers were granted of dividing and remodelling parishes; all which powers were, in 1707, transferred to the Court of Session. Some settlements were made in the Highlands, and new presbyteries erected during the Episcopal period between 1610 and 1638. The troubled state of the country in the middle of the seventeenth century, was little favourable to the enlargement of the church. In 1646, however, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, "in order that the knowledge of God in Christ may be spread through the Highlands and Islands," enacted, "1. That an order be procured, that all gentlemen who are able, do send their eldest sons to be bred in the inland. 2. That a ministry be planted among them (the Highlands;) and, for that effect, that ministers and exhortants, who can speak the Irish language, be sent to employ their talents in these parts; and kirks there be provided, as other kirks in this kingdom. 3. That Scots schools be erected in all parishes there, according to the act of parliament, where conveniently they can be had. 4. That all ministers and ruling elders that have the Irish language, be appointed to visit these parts."

The non-conforming clergy, or such as refused to comply with the Episcopal establishment, and acknowledge the order of bishops, were, in the Highlands as elsewhere, in many instances ejected from their parishes, between the Restoration and Revolution. Episcopacy, at this time, embraced the Confession of Faith promulgated by the reformed church in 1567, the received standard of doctrine of both denominations, prior to the drawing up of the Westminster Confession. After the opposition offered to the attempted introduction, in 1637, of a liturgy drawn up by the Scottish bishops and Archbishop Laud, along with the bishops of London and Norwich, on the model of that of Edward VI., no general form of prayer was appointed. The several bishops drew up, as before, each a particular liturgy for

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his own flock, including a few petitions and collects from the English Prayer-book ; but even in the Presbyterian Church set forms were observed, especially in the administration of the holy communion, down to the year 1638, when the church, for the first time, authoritatively assumed its most peculiar features of the entire parity of the clergy and the exclusive use of extemporary prayer, with the disuse of the ancient lessons from Scripture. As to church government, there were kirk-sessions, presbyteries, and diocesan synods, but no national assemblies.

The Highlands must have been in a very benighted state during the seventeenth century. Repeated revolutions in church and state, a distracted state of society, and frequent shifting of pastors, were ill calculated to foster dawning knowledge. Detached districts only were supplied with spiritual guides ; and of these many understood indifferently, or not at all, the language of the people ; while no Gaelic version of the Scriptures had been published, and there subsisted an almost entire ignorance of even the art of reading. Popery retained nearly exclusive dominion in the western section, and the isles of Inverness and Ross. Episcopalian worship, in the Highlands, prevailed chiefly about Dunkeld and Blair, and the town of Inverness ; in Strathnairn and Strathdearn ; and also to some extent in Strathspey and Badenoch, and more decidedly in the county of Moray. It was also rooted in the south-east of Ross-shire, and along the shores of the Linnhe Loch, in the vicinity of Lismore. Such of the Episcopalian clergy, throughout the Highlands, as took the oaths of allegiance to King William, which they did pretty generally, were allowed to retain their livings ; and, during the lives of these incumbents, Episcopalian worship was accordingly maintained in their parishes. The non-jurors, who, from jacobitical feelings, or conscientious scruples, declined to take the oaths to government, were treated with no little rigour, being legally interpelled from divine service in any place of worship, and from administering baptism or marriage. The mild endurance of the Episcopal Church has undoubtedly been the cause of its continuance to this day.

The Church of Scotland, as by law established, evinced considerable anxiety to supply the Highlands with an adequate proportion of churches and clergymen. Successive acts of Assembly were passed, by which bodies of ministers and probationers, or expectants, were enjoined to visit and itinerate in the

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Highlands ; and, to defray their expenses, grants were obtained from the vacant stipends. The settlement in any Lowland parishes of ministers having the Gaelic language was forbidden, and settled clergymen understanding Gaelic were declared transportable ; so that, in the event of a call to a Highland parish, they were bound to comply. Committees were appointed to visit Highland parishes, with a view to the erection of churches and schools. By the year 1726, a considerable effect was produced by these exertions. In 1724, the Presbyteries of Loch Carron, Abertarff, and Skye, were erected, and, with the Presbytery of Long Island, formed into a synod, called the Synod of Glenelg. Orkney was, in the following year, divided into three presbyteries ; in 1726, the Presbytery of Tongue was established ; and in 1729, those of Mull and Lorn ; and the Long Island was divided into two presbyteries in 1742. The attendant and corresponding progress of education will be subsequently noticed.

19. In 1823, a sum of £50,000 was granted by government for building additional places of worship in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. With this sum thirty-two churches with manses, one church without a manse, and ten manses,—where there were already churches in which, for instance, the parish minister had been accustomed to officiate occasionally,—have been built ; about £10,000 extra having been expended in general management. The services of forty-two ministers have thus been secured, at an expense to the public of £120 to each, or £5040 per annum. Small glebes and gardens are provided to the clergymen, who, with the heritor making application for the church, are bound to keep church and manse in repair, having the seat-rents consigned to them for that purpose. The churches and manses, which have been constructed under the superintendence of the Inspector of Highland roads and bridges, cost respectively £720 and £750 each, and are of neat designs, and the churches are capable of accommodating from 300 to 500 persons. These clergymen have charge of a section of the several parishes under certain restrictions ; and they were admitted by the Assembly to be members of the Church courts in June 1833.

20. The Episcopalian bishops first consecrated by their ejected brethren, were not invested with the charge of particular bounds, but the whole formed a college, having a general con-

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cern in the affairs of their communion. This arrangement was found inconvenient, and was changed in 1732, and the diocesan subdivision reverted to, when three bishops were appointed for the Highlands ; one to the see of Dunkeld, another to that of Moray, Ross, and Argyle, and the third to Orkney, Caithness, and the Isles. The rebellion of 1745 brought upon the Episcopalians the most depressing enactments, which continued unrepealed till 1792. No bishop has been required for Caithness and Orkney since 1762. Moray, formerly joined with Ross and Argyle, is now restored to its independent position ; the see of Argyle and the Isles has again been revived ; and these, with Dunkeld, form the only present Highland dioceses. The remnant of this persuasion, in the Highlands, are still found in nearly the identical localities where Episcopacy at one time predominated ; namely, in Inverness, and the neighbouring district of Strathnairn, in the south-east of Ross-shire, in Fort-William and Appin, and in the vicinity of Dunkeld.

21. Until the disruption in 1842, dissent from the present establishment had made but little progress in the Highlands. In Inverness-shire and the northern counties, it was confined to the eastern coast, and the Orkneys and Zetland. The Church of Rome has its congregations almost solely on the western coasts and islands of Inverness-shire, along the course of the Caledonian Canal, and in the diverging glens, in Inverness itself, and Strathglass adjoining, with a few members in Badenoch. They are more numerous in Aberdeen and Banff shires, and their clergy are most devoted to their flocks.

The most extraordinary ecclesiastical change in Scotland of late years has been the disruption in the Establishment in the year 1842. At that time the Presbyterian Church of Scotland appeared to be impregnable in strength, and at no previous period was it more efficient, or the clergy more zealous and exemplary. It enjoyed an amount of civil liberty which the Church of Christ at no former time seems to have had in the world, and although *patronage*, or the right of the Crown or of lay patrons to present to livings, with some other minor grievances, existed in name, practically the opinions, and even feelings of the people, in the settlements of the clergy, were almost universally consulted and acquiesced in. The power of public opinion (if that be of any value in religion) was becoming more operative, and the popular party in the church courts had

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attained a preponderating influence. State endowments had not corrupted the ministers, but on the contrary had aided them in their studies, and helped them not only to contribute liberally to every good work at home and abroad, but had enabled them to preach the gospel in all its fulness and freeness, uninfluenced by the local prejudices or contracted views of their sessions and people, which operate so strongly among the other sects. The clergy were almost uncontrolled in their power; certain of the most eminent of them had evidently in effect, though not in name, overstepped the notion of *Presbyterian parity;* and in the church courts an agitation was commenced, fomented by popular clamour from without, and unrestrained by the presence of a sufficient number of men of deliberate business habits within, which of a sudden demanded a total independence of the *civil courts*, and an unreserved concession by the legislature of the most *democratic* features of Presbyterian Church government. Litigations ensued about the presentation and deposition of ministers before the civil tribunals, without a previous appreciation of the extent to which the judicial findings would or would not be submitted to. The decrees of the highest courts when adverse were repudiated, and the most threatening language resorted to. The government assumed an equally high position, and was but ill informed of the lengths to which the people would go, and of the solemn engagements by which the clergy were confederated together not to yield an iota of their claims. Hence a disruption which in one day emptied 500 pulpits in Scotland, divided the people into two nearly equal parts, and which in the Highlands and Islands caused at least *three-fourths* of them to "*go out*" from the establishment with the pastors by whom they were led, and to whom they were most justly and warmly attached. Although the most extraordinary exertions and sacrifices have been made by the seceding party, under the name of the *Free Church of Scotland*, to maintain their principles and support their clergy by voluntary contributions, it is evident that the struggle in the Highlands has been most unequal and lamentable. There the people cannot afford to support the church; they must depend on their friends in the south for aid, and this will not be given always. Already some of their best preachers are being called away to better livings—the Gaelic population in the *southern* towns is draining the *north* of her best students; and the establishment, which

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has much difficulty in supplying vacant charges, especially with ministers who speak *Gaelic*, labours under the disadvantage of being proclaimed as no church at all (or at best "as a body without a soul!") by the very parties who use the same forms of worship as itself, and profess identically the same Confession of Faith! Meanwhile the people are losing their reverence for ordinances as such, from a disposition to receive them at the hands only of certain individuals, and as discipline though attempted to be strictly enforced is easily evaded. The several evil consequences to be apprehended, and to some extent developed, are now happily being counteracted, as, fortunately, although much acrimony of feeling prevailed for sometime after the disruption, the good sense of the people is now leading them to act as citizens in harmony. For the stand made by the Free Church for spiritual independence, they are entitled to much respect; but their charge against the Establishment and State that they have disowned the Great Head of the Church, is a slander discreditable to its abettors, and indignantly repudiated by the adherents of the Establishment, and universally condemned by all unbiassed persons. In preaching, the high and most austere *Calvinism* of the Puritan times is promulgated and encouraged in the Free Church, from which the Established clergy have been gradually receding, and losing with such recession somewhat of their popularity.

22. We shall now review shortly the progress of education, and the establishment of schools in the Highlands. The early solicitude which existed in Scotland on the subject of education is gratifying and interesting. Thus, in the reign of James IV., (1496) an act of Parliament was passed, ordaining that all "baronis and substantious freeholders sould put their airs to y^e^ schulis." The project of the system of parochial schools, which may justly be deemed the basis of education in this country, was first entertained by the Privy Council in 1616. Their act proceeds on the narrative of being for the promotion of "civilitie, godliness, knowledge, and learning;" and that the youth of the kingdom might be taught "at the least to write and read, and be catechised and instructed in the grounds of religion." Religion was thus made the foundation on which the goodly superstructure of parochial education has been reared. That act was made part of the law of the land in 1633, and the bishops, with consent of the heritors and parishioners,

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empowered to stent the land for the maintenance and establishment of schools. Laws were afterwards framed for the management and visitation of schools by the Assembly, and Presbyteries enjoined to diligence in getting them erected. The above-cited act (1646) has respect to education, as well as a ministry in the Highlands. We find every congregation appointed, in 1648, to contribute 40s. Scots yearly, altered next year to an annual collection, for maintaining Highland boys at school. In 1696, a school was appointed to be settled in every parish in Scotland by the advice of the ministers and heritors, and, failing them, the Presbytery and any five Commissioners of Supply; a school-house and garden to be provided by the heritors, and a salary to be modified of 100 to 200 merks Scots, payable by them, with relief against tenants for one half. The laws respecting parish schools were greatly amplified in 1803, and, in 1828, the salaries were raised from 300 to 400 merks (£16 : 13 : 4, to £22 : 14 : 5); thereafter, to from one and a half to two chalders (24 to 32 bolls) of oatmeal, valued at £25 to £34, with certain house and garden accommodation. Shaw, in his History of the Province of Moray, says:—"There were scarce any schools of learning in this province, except in royal burghs, till after the Revolution. I well remember (he wrote in 1775) when, from Speymouth (through Strathspey, Badenoch, and Lochaber) to Lorn, there was but one school, viz., at Ruthven, in Badenoch; and it was much to find in a parish three persons that could read or write." At the end of the seventeenth, and beginning and middle of the eighteenth century, the Assembly urged presbyteries to get the various parishes provided with schools; and in 1704 and 1707 acts were specially passed in regard to the Highlands.

23. The first books published in Gaelic were a version of the Psalms, and a translation of the Shorter Catechism, by the Synod of Argyle, in 1690. The philanthropic Boyle having presented, for the use of the Highlands, 200 copies of Bishop Bedell's Bible (the Old Testament), published by him in 1685, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland brought out also, in 1690, an edition of it, and of a version of the New Testament in Irish, published about the year 1600. The Assembly printed 3000 Bibles, and 1000 Testaments. These were followed, in 1699, by a Translation of the Confession of Faith, likewise by the Synod of Argyle. In 1704, the Society for Propagating

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Christian Knowledge in Scotland was founded, and letters patent were obtained for its erection in 1709. This venerable institution has been the means of conferring a train of invaluable blessings on the Highlands, having always maintained a large establishment of schools throughout the country, besides a few missionaries and catechists. In addition to schools for instruction in the ordinary elementary branches of education and religious instruction, it also supports a large number of schools of industry for initiating females in the arts of spinning, sewing, and knitting. These schools of industry have been greatly conducive to habits of cleanliness and tidiness. In 1725, an annual grant of £1000, afterwards enlarged to £2000, was placed by government at the disposal of the committee of the General Assembly for the support of assistant teachers or missionaries, and of catechists. The first edition of the New Testament in Gaelic was printed in 1769, by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. It consisted of 10,000 copies: one of 21,500 succeeded in 1797; but it was not until 1802 that the whole Bible was published, when the same society printed 5000 copies; and in 1807, 20,000 copies of a faithful translation, prepared under the direction of Dr. John Stewart, minister of Luss; Dr. Alexander Stewart, minister of Canongate, Edinburgh; and the Rev. James Stewart of Killin.

24. During last century, an erroneous system was too generally pursued, of teaching to read in the English language alone, as the most advisable method of promoting education amongst Highlanders. At first sight, this seems a rational course: but the consequence was, that the scholar acquired an acquaintance with certain signs, significant to him, however, of nothing but unmeaning sounds. His attainments were of no immediate use when out of school, nor were they productive of any effect in stimulating his mind in the pursuit of knowledge. The consequence was, that frequently the very faculty of reading was lost by disuse. By training Highlanders to the art of reading in their vernacular tongue, combined with the English language, the germ of the love of knowledge is developed. To satisfy that feeling, they must have recourse to the English, as their own literature offers no original or sufficiently extensive store of information; and they are thence furnished with an index whereby to understand translations, and thus to acquaint themselves with the English language; while the knowledge of

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their own written dialect is of direct service, in giving command of the range of such works as have been rendered into Gaelic. It affords them instant access also to the Scriptures. The prevalence of the opposite opinion may have been the means of the late appearance of the Gaelic translations of the Bible, and, there can be no doubt, greatly retarded the advancement of the Highlands. Now, however, the excellent society just alluded to, and all others, cultivate an attention to both languages, and to translation from the one to the other, in the schools.

25. In 1811, a Gaelic School Society was established in Edinburgh ; and in the following year an Auxiliary in Glasgow, which last institution combined the teaching of English with Gaelic reading. A society was formed in 1818, in Inverness, for the education of the poor in the Highlands and Islands. This society instituted, in 1824-5, a series of very particular inquiries throughout all the parishes in the Highlands and Islands, from which an interesting and elaborate work, entitled "Moral Statistics of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland," was compiled. Printed schedules were sent to the clergy ; and, of 171 despatched, 89 were received back, filled up with a degree of care, and at an extent of personal trouble, reflecting much credit on the clergy. Of these returns, 72 were from the 84 parishes of Inverness, Ross, Moray, Nairn, Cromarty, and Sutherland ; general accounts being received from the other less necessitous shires. It appears from the returns, which apply to about one-half the whole population, including that of Orkney and Zetland, among other facts, that "one half of all ages were then unable to read ;"—"a third part of the families visited were above two miles distant from the nearest schools ;"—and "a third part of the families visited were found to be without copies of the Scriptures." By calculations on the whole data, "taking all ages above eight years, those *who could not read* were nearly in the following proportions :— In the Hebrides and other western parts of Inverness and Ross, 70 in the 100 could not read. In the remaining parts of Inverness and Ross, Nairn, the Highlands of Moray, Cromarty, Sutherland, and the inland parts of Caithness, 40 in the 100. In Argyle and the Highlands of Perth (supposed about) 30 in the 100. In Orkney and Zetland, (supposed about) 12 in the 100. In the western parts of Inverness and Ross, all the Scriptures found existing were in the proportion of one copy of the

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Bible for every *eight* persons above the age of *eight years;* and in other parts of the Highlands and Islands, including Orkney and Zetland, where reading is very general, only (supposed about) one copy for every three persons. About one-fourth part of all the families in these districts, or upwards of 100,000 persons, were wholly without Bibles; in several thousand families of this number there being persons who could read." The "moral statistics" materially conduced to awaken public attention to the state of education in the Highlands, but the society which published the book has been superseded by the more powerful agencies which it was instrumental in evoking.

26. The General Assembly, happily, in 1825, appointed a committee for the purpose of increasing the means of education and religious instruction in Scotland, particularly in the Highlands and Islands. Their schools are now numerous, and efficiently conducted, and aided by government grants. The General Assembly's Education Committee is exerting a steady and most salutary influence on the state of education throughout Scotland. Under the authority of the Church, Presbyterial visitation of all schools is coming to be much more efficiently performed, and minute returns are annually called for from all parishes, respecting the schools of all sorts within the bounds. Great solicitude is shown by the committee to raise the standard of elementary instruction, by a stricter examination of the qualifications of candidates for schools, by pressing on public attention the bad effects of the want of some means for superannuating inefficient teachers, and endeavours for an increase of the allowances to teachers, the incomes of the parochial-school teachers throughout the Highlands only averaging from £30 to £50; while it being competent, in some parishes, by allowing three chalders of oatmeal (£51 : 6 : 7) to subdivide it among several teachers, these are in such cases still worse off, while at the same time the usual accommodations can be dispensed with by the heritors. Another useful object of attention has been the publication of supplies of suitable school-books, maps, &c., at a cheap rate, and the establishment of school libraries.*

* The Free Church vies with the Establishment in its efforts to educate the people; and, not content with the University system of the country, it has opened a college of its own in Edinburgh. The government, likewise, has just promulgated a plan for popular education, to be paid for partly by the state; but it is difficult to say how the boon will be received, or whether the mutual jealousies of the religious bodies may not cause it for a time to be withdrawn or remodelled.

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A Gaelic Episcopal Society was formed in 1831, for the purpose of assisting to educate young students for the ministry, publishing Gaelic prayer and other books, and providing catechists and schools for the poor of that communion throughout the Highlands. Its operations are limited; but they have merged in a great measure into those of the Scottish Episcopal Church Society, which was instituted in 1839, for the purposes of assisting aged and infirm clergymen, and congregations labouring under pecuniary difficulties, and educating the poorer candidates for the ministry; for providing schoolmasters, books, and tracts for the poor, and forming or enlarging diocesan libraries. By Act 1 and 2 Victoria, cap. 87, it is enacted, that in all Highland parishes which have been divided *quoad sacra*, under the Act for the erection of Government Churches, the heritors may secure a government endowment for such additional schools as may be necessary by providing similar accommodation to what is required for parish schools. Previous to 1826, the British and Foreign Bible Society had printed several editions of the Gaelic Scriptures, to the amount of 35,000 Bibles, and 48,700 Testaments, and making, along with those of the Scottish Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, in all 60,000 Bibles, and 80,000 New Testaments. Since then, several editions of the Scriptures have been printed by these societies and by the Edinburgh Bible Society, and the circulation of the inspired volume has been materially increased since the abolition of the exclusive privileges of the Queen's printers.

27. The General Assembly's committee have appended to their annual report, dated in May 1833, a valuable statement, entitled "Educational Statistics of the Highlands and Islands," compiled from parochial returns. From this source we derive the following analytical results which hold good to this day, as the Assembly has not published any additional report on this subject since 1833, and the state of the Highlands since then is not much changed, except recently by the schools of the Free Church, the statistics of which are as yet unknown :—

In the Synods of Argyle; two Presbyteries in Aberdeen (Alford and Kincardine O'Neil); the Synods of Moray, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness; Glenelg, Orkney, and Zetland: comprehending 220 parishes, and a population, by the Government Census of 1831, of 504,955.

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The number of schools, not including Sabbath and week-day evening schools, and of scholars were, of—

	Schools.	Scholars.
Parochial schools,	273	14,202
Schools supported by societies,	315	18,085
Schools endowed, or partially so, or supported by subscription,	137	6,314
Schools on teachers' own adventure, without salary,	372	13,728
	1097	52,329

Besides 418 Sabbath schools, 20 week-day evening schools, and about 80 schools of industry of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge.

Pupils learning mathematics in all the schools amounted to	417
Learning Latin in all the schools	1,536
Number of persons of all ages above 6 years unable to read in Gaelic or English	83,396
Number of persons betwixt 6 and 20 years of age unable to read in either language	28,073

It is remarkable that Shetland bears the palm in point of universality of elementary instruction, there being, out of a population of 29,392, only 107 of all ages above 6 years, and 28 betwixt 6 and 20 years of age, unable to read. In the synod of Glenelg, of a population of 91,584, the numbers thus ignorant are respectively 43,799, and 16,433. "There are, in the Presbytery of Mull, 8104 *above* 6 *years of age* untaught to read, in a population of 24,113 *of all ages;* in the Presbytery of Uist there are 10,831 in a population of 17,490; in the Presbytery of Loch Carron, 10,778 in a population of 21,350; in the single parish of Loch Broom, in a population of 4615, not more than 1000 appear to have been taught to read; in South Uist, the number of the untaught is 4334 in a population of 6890;" and in Barra and adjoining isles, 1097 out of 1597.

The returns made to the General Assembly's committee are to be regarded as exhibiting a very near approximation to the precise extent of educational destitution in the Highlands; and

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they show that no less than 83,397 of all ages above 6 years of age, and 28,073 betwixt 6 and 20 years of age, were then unable to read; and no very material variation has since taken place. It must be observed, too, that, of those who have been taught to read, many have been but indifferently instructed; a large proportion, also, can read merely in the Gaelic language, an attainment necessarily of comparatively circumscribed utility. Little more than merely elementary tuition is attempted in any of the schools; and even as to writing and arithmetic, a much greater degree of ignorance prevails than of the art of reading; it being computed that those who have not been taught to write are in a triple ratio to the number who cannot read. This we apprehend to arise, not so much from neglect of this branch when at school, as in not being able to prosecute it till such a satisfactory degree of progress be made as to induce its continued practice, and from inability to purchase writing-materials. In Arran, 17 are represented as unable to write for 1 unable to read; and it is believed the same proportion exists in Orkney and Shetland. In the Synod of Glenelg there were only 8 studying mathematics, out of 8558 attending school; but the Latin scholars preserve nearly a fair average to the rest of the Highlands, being 181 in number. To capacitate for perusing the pages of divine truth is, however, a distinguishing aim of all Highland Schools. It is an affecting peculiarity that the order of nature is, to a great extent, reversed in our mountain glens; the adult being very frequently almost wholly dependent upon the young for access to scriptural knowledge. Several Highland parishes are so extensive as from forty to sixty miles in extreme length, and twenty to thirty in extreme breadth, and many are not much smaller. It is thus out of the power of a great part of the population to attend the public services of the church, while the mountainous character of the country increases the difficulties of intercourse. The capacity of reading is thus of the more vital consequence, and schools in remote districts are signal blessings, the teacher in numerous instances becoming a sort of pastor or missionary to the inhabitants. Many other circumstances in the lot of Highlanders strengthen their claims for a general extension to them of the blessings of education, by their more favoured countrymen throughout the kingdom. To the rest of the community they must look for the means of alleviating the disadvantages they labour under;

for of themselves it may be said, "their poverty, and not their will, consents." The Assembly's committee had got returns of 217 stations for additional schools, where an average of perhaps 60 scholars, or about 13,000, might be expected to attend. For the more scattered 15,000 remaining of the 28,000 from 6 to 20 years of age unprovided with means of instruction, it is suggested that 167 ambulatory schools, to itinerate between 3 different stations, might suffice. For the support of these 384 additional schools, the requisite expense is estimated at £8700 per annum.

In some of the towns, as Inverness, Tain, and Fortrose, chartered academies have for a considerable time been founded; and they possess numerous private seminaries. Well endowed educational establishments exist in the neighbouring coast towns, Nairn, Forres, and Elgin.

28. There are no newspapers published, or printing presses, within the precise confines of the Highlands, except at Inverness, where there are three weekly papers, and one now at Dingwall; and Caithness also boasts a John-o'-Groat Journal.

The English works translated into Gaelic are chiefly Theological. Original Gaelic productions are almost wholly of a metrical character: of other literature there exist hardly any compositions. It appears, however, by a curious catalogue of Gaelic books (Bibliotheca Scoto-Celtica), published some years ago by John Reid of Glasgow, and which contains a short account of each, that the number of printed works in the Gaelic language is much greater than is generally imagined.

Several Gaelic dictionaries have issued from the press within the last dozen years. Previously, the only work of the latter description in existence, excepting Shaw's Vocabulary, and M'Donald's Gaelic and English Vocabulary, both old works and little known, was Macfarlane's Vocabulary, first published in Glasgow about thirty years ago. In 1828, the Highland Society of Scotland brought out a large dictionary, in two thick quarto volumes, containing a translation of Gaelic words into both English and Latin, and *vice versa*. This valuable compilation was prepared for the society, principally by the late Mr. Maclachlan of Aberdeen, and the Rev. Dr. Macintosh Mackay, formerly of Laggan, and now of Dunoon. About the same time, the Rev. Dr. Macleod of Campsie, now of Glasgow, and Dr. Dewar of Glasgow, now of Aberdeen, commenced, in numbers,

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a Gaelic dictionary, now completed, in one large octavo volume. Another quarto publication, of the same kind, has also since been edited by Mr. Armstrong of London. A pocket pronouncing edition has likewise appeared, by Mr. Macalpine, parish schoolmaster in Islay, to which is attached a Gaelic Grammar. The only Gaelic Grammer had been an old one by Shaw, till about thirty-five years ago, when the late Rev. Dr. Stewart of Dingwall, afterwards of Canongate, brought one out, which is rather philosophical than practical, and has, we believe, several defects. A useful spelling-book has been published by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge; there is likewise Curries' Principles of Gaelic Grammar; and a Primer, and also a Grammar by Mr. James Munro, parish schoolmaster of Kilmanivaig. But we believe the aid of a teacher is almost indispensable to a student of the language, and that to throw one's self in the way of oral intercourse with others is the most approved mode of breaking ground. Mr. Munro has published a collection of Gaelic poems and songs. His Gaelic is generally admitted to be peculiarly pure; and we understand an application was at one time made for the institution of a Gaelic Poet Laureateship, representative of the bards of old, and to have that honour conferred in the first instance on him. It is somewhat remarkable, that while in Wales, with a population of 700,000, there should be no less than 17 periodicals, of various kinds, in the Welsh language, the Highlands of Scotland possess no such appropriate work. In 1829, a monthly sixpenny miscellany, called the "Gaelic Messenger," was set on foot, edited by the Rev. Dr. Macleod already mentioned. It had a considerable circulation at first, but did not survive above two years.

29. Highland music, we need hardly remark, is highly esteemed, alike for its tenderness, simplicity, and sprightliness. The native melodies—of which the best collection is that edited by Captain Simon Fraser, and published in 1816—and the tunes called strathspeys and reels, will ever be admired, and are now again regaining favour in the higher circles. The national instrument, however, is the great and imposing Highland bagpipe; a pipe of such power, in point of loudness, from the size of the chanter,—being peculiar to the Scottish Highlands. Its tones are bold, full, clear, and spirit-stirring; but their gradation is imperfect, and often dissonant, and it is essentially an out-of-door and warlike instrument. The appro-

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priate music of the bagpipe is the pibroch, a wild and irregular composition, alternating from a slow and measured cadence to the most impetuous rapidity and deafening shrillness. These pieces generally either bear allusion to the battle-field, or are lamentations for the dead. Pipers still form a part of the establishment of a chieftain, and are the living representatives of the bards of the olden time. Highland songs are full of poetic feeling, and the Gaelic language is highly figurative and expressive. The violin is, and apparently for a couple of centuries at least has been, common in the Highlands. The harp has now totally disappeared; nor, though at a distant period not unknown, does it seem ever to have been in general use.

30. The Highlanders are now a quiet and peaceable people, of warm and kindly affections, and hospitable character; they are, happily, strangers to many of the vices of more refined states of society. Great changes have taken place in regard to the superstitious notions formerly so prevalent, and the extravagant and ostentatious entertainments common, till a recent period, at marriages and funerals. The mass of the people are, however, far behind in the habits which distinguish advanced states of society; but they are gradually improving. They are subjected to great privations, and are, therefore, entitled to indulgent consideration and sympathy; as, from their remarkable contentedness and patient endurance of penury and its attendant ills, they justly merit respect. The population has increased considerably of late years, while the sheep system gives them "*no room*" to spread over and cultivate the land; and hence they are crowded into towns and villages, where it is too often extremely difficult for the poor Highlanders to sustain their wretched pauperized existence.

Among the causes which chiefly retard improvement in the condition of the Highlanders, are also chiefly to be enumerated the vast extent of entailed land, and the difficulty to persons of moderate incomes being able to purchase small improveable estates, or of even getting a residence, except to *rent*, or for payment of a large yearly feu-duty. A system of conveyancing, still needlessly cumbersome, also prevails, whereby (especially in towns and villages) the expense of securities and transfers of property is very oppressive; and, above all, the difference of language, and the defective education of the poor Highlander, operate against him in pushing his way among strangers; while,

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at home, the warm feelings of mutual attachment and respect which formerly united the chief and his clansmen into one family, being now broken, there is, in many cases, but little communication or interchange of friendly offices between the proprietor (too often an absent one) and his tenants and cottars.

N.B.—In addition to our observations on the fisheries (14), we may add that, for the last twenty years, an annual sum of £2500 has been expended by the Board of Fisheries in the construction of piers and other works for the protection of the fisheries on the Scottish coasts, along with from £1000 to £1500 of local contributions required in each case.

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SECTION II.

APPROACHES TO AND TRAVELLING IN THE HIGHLANDS, HIGHLAND ROADS, COACHES, INNS, STEAM NAVIGATION, ETC.

Approaches to either side of the Island, paragraph 1.—District Roads and Statute Labour, 2.—Military Roads, 3.—Parliamentary Roads, 4.—Repair of Public Roads, 5.—Travelling in the Eighteenth Century, 6.—Public Coaches, 7.—Highland Inns, 8.—Steam Navigation, 9.—Posting, &c., 10.—Outline of the more interesting Routes, 11.—Expense of Travelling, 12.

Approaches to the Highlands.

1. THE main approaches to the Highlands from the south, are, 1st, By steam from London or Leith to Inverness, by the Moray Firth, at any of the ports on which the traveller can stop and penetrate into the "bowels of the land," in any direction he pleases. 2d, By the coast road from Aberdeen, through Elgin and Nairn shires. 3d, By the great Highland road across the Grampians from Perth, by Athole and Badenoch to Inverness, and by branches from Dalwhinnie and Kingussie to Fort-William. 4th, Nearly parallel to this road, but more to the east, a new line of communication has been projected from Dunkeld or Dundee by Braemar, to Grantown in Strathspey, and thence to Forres or Elgin; but though already partially made, this route has not yet been completed. 5th, The roads leading north-west from the lakes of Perth, Stirling, and Dumbarton shires, which all either join between Loch Tay and Glencoe, and thence descend through that romantic gorge, to the Linnhe Loch; or which, passing more westerly into Argyleshire, skirt the sides of Loch Awe, and, from its eastern extremity, descend along the flanks of Ben Cruachan by Loch Etive to Oban and Fort-William. 6th, The great western approach by steam from Glasgow, by the Crinan and Caledonian Canals; and 7th, The steamers from Glasgow and Oban to Staffa and Iona, and to Skye and Stornoway in the outer Hebrides, which perform the voyage twice a-week in summer, and once a fortnight in winter; and to which may be added the occasional steamers which now and

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then take special pleasure trips to St. Kilda and other more remote islands.

On the eastern coast, a splendid mail-coach road proceeds along the shore northward from Inverness to Thurso in Caithness. Beyond Arisaig, on the western coast of Inverness-shire, however, it is impossible for the traveller as *yet* to penetrate by land, without interruption, to the extreme north-west point of Sutherlandshire. Nor is there much likelihood of a continuous line of road being projected along this part of that coast. Besides the numerous *ferries* to be crossed, there are no roads except footpaths, or at best *bridle* or rather *break-neck* roads, through the rough districts of Morar, Knoydart, and Glenelg, in Inverness. A carriage road from the head of Loch Torridon by Kinlochewe, and thence down the west side of Loch Maree to Poolewe, has lately been finished, and another commenced from Poolewe by Loch Gruinord and Dundonald to Loch Broom, and one is projected from Shieldaig along Loch Torridon, which would afford a continuous coast communication from Shiel House to Ullapool; but from Ullapool through the district of Coigach to Loch Inver, in Sutherlandshire, there is as yet no public road, and only a very rough one across the country to Bonar Bridge. Some of these districts in which the communication is thus *cut off*, are so exceedingly rough and inaccessible —so remote and so thinly peopled, that public money has not hitherto been laid out on them; but the proprietors and their tenants are exerting themselves to form what are styled *district roads* through them. Between the eastern and western coasts, excellent lines of communication extend from Inverness to Fort-William, and branching from this line from Invermoriston to Kintail and Skye, from Invergarry to Loch Hourn, and from Fort-William to Skye; again from Dingwall to Skye, and round by Loch Duich on the mainland to the Invermoriston road; from Golspie and Bonar Bridge to Tongue and Cape Wrath, and round the west and north-east coast of Sutherlandshire. To the south, again, Perthshire is intersected by cross lines of communication along Loch Tay and Loch Earn; but between these and the Great Glen, the country is one pathless waste, "by shepherds only trod." It will be prudent in the traveller to mark the portions of the west coast along which he cannot bring his own conveyance, or trust to any being procured in the country.

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With these general remarks, which we know that *strangers* will be the better of keeping in view, we proceed now to a short historical sketch of the Roads, modes of Conveyance, Inns, &c., to which, if our readers will refer occasionally in their journeys, they will find that they have enabled us to avoid much repetition and detail in our subsequent chapters. Indeed, the progress of improvement in the Highlands has been so dependent on their being made accessible by roads (for previously even large armies could not penetrate them except by sea, or by burning down the native forests), that the present state of the country would be unintelligible, except by first glancing at such an historical retrospect.

Roads.

2. By the old acts of the Parliament of Scotland, it would appear that the legislature anciently interested itself only in looking after the highways immediately contiguous to market towns, and such as led to the parish churches, and scarcely any thought seems to have been employed on the propriety of forming great public lines of road through the country. It is hence not till near the close of the seventeenth century, that we discover the first germs, in the public enactments, of the modern regulation of highways, bridges, and ferries. Several excellent statutes were then passed, constituting the Justices of the Peace, and Commissioners of Supply existing in each county for assessing the land-tax, trustees or guardians of the highways, and vesting them with ample powers for their regulation and improvement. They are in particular authorized to call out annually all agricultural tenants, with their cottars and servants, and almost all other male persons, to perform six days' work, with their horses, carts, or sleds, and proper tools, for upholding the highways ; the legal breadth of which is twenty feet, exclusive of the ditch on either side. Power also was given to the justices, acting as road trustees, to make bridges, regulate public ferries, alter the direction of the roads, and shut up useless ones. Subsequent enactments have enabled the different counties to convert the personal services required from the tenants into small sums of money, payable annually. In common with almost all other male persons, they are subject to a small direct contribution, or capitation tax, and were liable in a further sum, proportioned to their rents, in lieu of their horses

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and carts, and payable to their landlords, who are assessed to double or triple the amount. Under these statutes almost all the district or cross roads of the country are now maintained; but while each shire has a local road act of its own, "they are all subject to the regulations of a public one for the conversion of statute service into money," passed on the 21st July 1845.

3. In the south of Scotland, even at the beginning of last century, tolerably good roads were made in virtue of the old laws; but it is questionable whether the gentry in the Highlands ever availed themselves in the slightest degree, till after the rebellion of 1745, of the powers thereby put into their hands for opening up their wild and inaccessible estates. During the previous rebellion of 1715, however, the expediency of rendering accessible the fastnesses of the North, became apparent to government, as a measure of national police. The royal troops were, at that time, unable to penetrate beyond Blair in Athole; but before 1730, several great lines of road were commenced by the labours of the soldiery, which were finished in six or eight years afterwards; namely, from Callander, near Stirling, to Tyndrum, and from Luss, on Loch Lomond side, both by the head of that lake, and by Inverary, to the same point, and thence to Fort-William by Glencoe, and from Fort-William through the Great Glen to Fort-George; from Crieff and from Dunkeld to Dalnacardoch, thence to Dalwhinnie, and from that to Fort-Augustus and to Inverness, and from Cupar-Angus by Braemar to Fort-George; and, besides these main lines, there were a few cross roads. Latterly, the total extent of these military roads was about 800 miles: they were provided with upwards of 1000 bridges. Some parts being subsequently abandoned, or taken under the charge of the proprietors through whose estates the roads proceeded, the length of road requiring the aid of government for its repair was reduced, at the close of last century, to 599 miles.

Those roads were formed by parties of soldiers, who during the working season received a small increase of pay: each party was under the direction of a master mason and an overseer, who had his instructions from an officer called the baggage-master and inspector of roads in North Britain, and who was directly amenable to the commander-in-chief of the forces for Scotland.

Under this system of military charge, the roads had con-

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tinued till the year 1799, and for their formation and support grants were made by parliament of from £4000 to £7000 a-year. Doubts having been raised in parliament as to the propriety of continuing to support these roads out of the public purse, the opinions of Sir Ralph Abercromby, commander-in-chief, and Colonel Anstruther, general-inspector, were taken (in 1798) on the subject. Both of these officers admitted that, as military roads, they had become unnecessary; but the latter, in particular, contended that they were of the greatest use for civil purposes; and that, if neglected, the Highlanders, from the progress they had made in civilisation, would soon relapse into their former ignorance and slavish dependence on their chiefs, or would desert their country. By them also, and by the Highland Society, the anomaly was explained to government of a country not being able to support its own roads by the statute-labour and by tolls, in consequence of the thinness of its population and the small number of travellers frequenting it.

4. It was for these reasons that the ministry, in 1802 and 1803, when they began to attend to the general improvement of the Highlands, resolved to continue the grants for keeping the communication open with the low country, and of one part of the Highlands with another. Provision was further made for defraying one half of the estimated expense of such additional roads and bridges as might appear most necessary; the other half to be defrayed by the proprietors of land, or other persons who would be benefited thereby. By the act, commissioners were appointed to insure the proper expenditure of the public money, and the efficient and economical performance of the works. The Highland counties were prompt to the call of government in contributing their quota. The whole amount of parliamentary advances, including interest, has been £267,000, and the counties assessed themselves in about £214,000, towards the construction of these recent roads; being only liable for half the expense of making the roads, the expense of general management falling on the public. About £60,000 beyond these sums have had to be defrayed by individuals; so that about £540,000 have been expended on the Highland parliamentary roads. The length of new roads formed by this joint fund has been 875 miles, and the number of bridges of all kinds 1117, the whole of which were completed in 1820. With the exception of 148 miles in Argyleshire and Bute, these parliamentary

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roads lie almost wholly in Inverness-shire and the northern counties.

5. The military roads had, meanwhile, continued to be kept in repair entirely at the public expense, at a cost of from £4000 to £7000 per annum, and under the charge of a military superintendent till 1814; when this being considered too heavy a burden, considering the large sums advancing for the formation of new roads, the grant for the repairs of the military roads was reduced, for six years, to £2500. In consequence, a large portion of them has been allowed to sink into neglect. The line from Tarbet, by Inverary and Tyndrum, to Fort-William, and thence to Fort-George, and that from Inverness by Badenoch to the confines of Perthshire, with a portion of the Strathspey roads (in all about 260 miles), are now alone attended to. Since 1819, government has allowed £5000 a-year towards the expense of keeping both the military and parliamentary roads in repair; the whole being put, since 1814, under the management of the commissioners, and extending (including 138 miles of new county roads in Caithness) to 1286 miles. Their total maintenance comes to about £11,000 a-year, of which about four-fifths is for actual outlay on the roads. The counties have of late years begun to seek some relief from the pressure of their assessments by the erection of tolls on the more frequented roads, the proprietors thereby shifting from themselves on the public a considerable annual outlay. Originally it was intended by government, that, as in Ireland, the roads through the Highlands of Scotland should be toll free, owing to the poverty of the people.

It appears quite unnecessary for us to detail the minute differences, in size and construction, between the military and the new roads. The former were narrow, but rarely provided with parapets or drains; the bridges were high and steep, and the roads were carried over every inequality of surface in as rectilineal a direction as possible—imperfections, it is needless to add, not chargeable against the parliamentary roads, which are, in general, well engineered. Many of the old military bridges, however, have stood the severest winter floods, in consequence of their arches being highly pointed, few, and open, and having no breastworks of stone at either end. In some instances the road has been often swept away at their extremities, and their bare gaunt masses left spanning a wide stream, apparently for

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no useful purpose. Besides the public roads, there are numerous district roads, supported by the statute-labour to which we have already alluded.

6. Notwithstanding, however, that, since the middle of the last century, the communication between the Highlands and Lowlands was opened in several directions, yet the inhabitants were extremely slow in availing themselves of the advantages of easy and expeditious travelling. For a considerable time after the suppression of the rebellion of 1745, the great Highland road by Badenoch was infested by gangs of desperate robbers; and so unsafe was the route across the Grampians, that many persons made their wills before undertaking a journey beyond their own neighbourhood. Garrons, or little Highland ponies, were then used by gentlemen as well as by the peasantry; inns were few and uncomfortable; and, even when post-chaises were introduced, the expense of hiring one was thought on for weeks, perhaps months, and arrangements made for dividing it among as many individuals as it would contain. If the harness and springs of the vehicle kept together, the travellers were introduced, jaded and weary, on the evening of the eighth day after that on which they had left Inverness, to the High Street or the Grassmarket of Edinburgh.

Public Coaches.

7. No regular post was established between Inverness and Edinburgh till after the Union; and for fifty years the letters, which were brought only once a-week, were carried by foot-runners. To these succeeded riding-posts and single-seated cars. In the year 1806, the Caledonian coach commenced running between Inverness and Perth, a distance of 115 miles, and the journey was performed in two days. This undertaking was looked on as extremely hazardous to the parties concerned in it; and was, in fact, given up by all but one individual (the late Mr. Peter Anderson, solicitor in Inverness), who for a long period conducted it solely at his own risk. This road is now travelled either way, every day, in about fourteen hours, by a mail coach; while in summer, one or two other daily coaches are put on the road.

In the year 1811, a mail diligence, drawn by two horses, was established between Aberdeen and Inverness, a road on

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which there are at present three daily four-horse coaches, the Mail, Defiance, and Star.

Various attempts were made, at different times, to extend the coaching system to Tain and the northern towns, but without success, till the year 1819; when a mail diligence, drawn by two horses, and under a special contract with government, was established between Inverness and Thurso, and which has been of the greatest benefit to the districts through which it passes. The conductors of this coach have handsome allowances for carrying the letters, and they are exempted from the usual coach duty. It is now driven as far as Tain with four horses, to which place also another daily four-horse coach generally runs in summer, and a third from Inverness to Strathpeffer. For several summers an enterprising company has run a large daily four-horse coach (called the Breadalbane) all the way from Glasgow by Lochlomond, Glencoe, and Fort William, to Inverness, along a route unequalled perhaps in Europe for the variety and magnificence of its scenery. The journey was performed in two days. Another coach by the same route, so far, runs to Oban, diverging at Tyndrum.

The other Highland districts are now also pretty well accommodated. There is a coach running from Dunkeld, by Killin, to Loch Lomond; and another from Oban to Inverary and to Tarbet on Loch Lomond, by Glencroe; also one from Inverary to Loch Goilhead; several between Stirling and the Trosachs; one from the bridge of Carr through Strathspey to Elgin and Fochabers; and in the extreme north, a coach from Thurso to Tongue, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, returning the intermediate days. Besides these, we may mention the open mail-gigs, which run three times a-week between Dingwall and Dunvegan in Skye, and proceed twice a-week (on Mondays and Thursdays) from Golspie both to Tongue and Assynt, and return on the Wednesday and Saturday. Each of these conveyances accommodates three passengers. In the south, a mail phaeton runs daily between Dunkeld and Taymouth, and between Pitlochrie and Rannoch, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and various public conveyances carry crowds of passengers to and from Perth and Blair Athole.

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Railways.

These are truly the links and chains by which the distant provinces of a great empire like ours are compactly united together, and brought near to the capital and great market towns, whether for commercial intercourse in times of peace, or for safety and mutual protection in war. It is impossible at present to say of what importance, in a national point of view, the remote districts of Scotland may be to the rest of the country, or how requisite it may yet be for government to have the means of speedily concentrating troops on our northern shores. But from the depressed state of the railway interests it is obvious that, if this mode of completing the communication between the Highlands and the south is carried through, it must be after the cost of constructing and maintaining railways has been greatly reduced, and most probably not without assistance from government.

In the year 1846, two opposing companies started railway schemes, one to connect Inverness *coastways*, through Elgin and Aberdeen shires, with the series of railways then in progress along the eastern counties of Scotland; while the other proposed to carry a through line, 67 miles shorter, by the great valleys of Strathspey, Badenoch, and Athole, direct to Perth, and based on the north by a railway *between* Inverness and Elgin, which was to communicate by short branches with the ports of the Moray Firth. Such schemes were perhaps, though grand in conception and well engineered, premature with reference to the present cost of construction. The Aberdeen line (to be called the Great North of Scotland), had its act passed, but the works have not yet been commenced. From Inverness to the Spey, near Fochabers, their construction would not be expensive, as the ground is throughout *level*, and composed of *sand* and *gravel*, requiring no *rock* cutting; and the traffic along this portion of the line would undoubtedly be remunerative. The crossing of the Spey at the point selected (a short way above Fochabers), involved most formidable works, and a VIADUCT on high arches, of more than *a mile and a-half* in extent. And accordingly, it is understood that the projectors are to abandon this portion of the scheme, and at the sacrifice of a detour of some miles inland, to cross the river Spey higher up by means of a bridge thrown from the

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opposing rocks at *Craigellachie*. The route thence to Aberdeen is practicable, but in many parts steep enough, the ruling gradient being the same in general as that which would have occurred in the rival direct line to Perth. The course of this latter line is worthy of being briefly described. Inverness and Elgin were to be its two northern *termini*, and from the vicinity of Nairn, nearly half way between these towns, the main line was to ascend along the sloping ridges which bound Strathnairn on the south, and was to cross the river Findhorn at Dulsie Bridge, whence it was to skirt the base of the Knock of Brae Moray, and passing through a valley south of *Lochindhorbh*, was to reach Strathspey near the Kirk of Duthel. Its course thence to the summit level of the country in the pass of *Drumouchter*, was remarkably straight, and almost all along *gravel plains* and *terraces*, and the altitude there attained would be about 1450 feet above the sea, with slopes on either side, each of about sixty miles in length. The steepest gradient to be overcome was 1 in 75 for a distance of eight miles from the summit on the descent into Athole ; and another ascent from Nairn to the river Findhorn, involved a gradient of 1 in 84 for seven miles, which two acclivities, it was computed, would have required an additional cost of £3000 a-year for extra engines. It is believed that easier gradients would ultimately have been discovered ; but if not, evidence was given by the most eminent engineers, that the inclinations referred to were nowise formidable in themselves, and that steeper gradients were worked in several parts of the kingdom, especially on the Carlisle and Lancaster line, and the Caledonian has a gradient precisely similar in degree and in extent. The Parliamentary committee, without going into any inquiry as to the traffic evidence, refused the bill, " having arrived at this result (as their decision expressed it), *solely* on the present state of experience as to the working of severe gradients of considerable length, over great altitudes, and are not to be taken as giving any opinion against the formation of the Perth and Inverness line, should the experience of the working of railroads now in progres of formation, or of others of a similar character, support the principle upon which the Perth and Inverness is proposed to be constructed. Neither is it the intention of the committee in any way to prejudge the question, whether, even if a line be constructed from Aberdeen to Inverness, *the northern counties*

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of Scotland are not entitled to the benefit of a second line from Perth to Inverness." As railway speculations have since turned out, this decision was probably a fortunate one for the shareholders ; but the reasoning of it is important, and should still be kept in view with reference to the future dealings of government for developing the resources, and completing the defences of the kingdom.

With regard to traffic, the promoters of the direct line to Perth announced that they were prepared to prove, that, taking as a basis for calculation the great number of persons who for business or pleasure at present pass through the Highland counties every summer and autumn, there was reason to believe that there would be from 45,000 to 50,000 *through* passengers by the railway a-year ; that about 140,000 sheep would annually take the rails at various points ; from 30,000 to 40,000 lean cattle ; about 2000 fat cattle at the least, and six or eight times as many fat sheep ; that a very large proportion of the merchandise, now sent to the Highlands by *sea*, would arrive by rail in preference, while the products of the country would be sent south by it, such as grain, timber,* game, slates, and building stones, and the products of the distilleries ; and that *coals* and *lime* would be extensively passed along the line for domestic use and local improvement, and perhaps for smelting the lead, iron, and copper ores, believed to be existing in many parts of the country. If the data on which those calculations were founded were at all correct, and they were very similar to those adduced by the supporters of the Great North of Scotland, and by the South Aberdeen Railway Company in the year 1845, it would appear that a direct railway through the centre of the Highlands, collecting the traffic from both north and south, and dispersing it at its termini, and on all sides of it in its course, ought to yield a gross annual return of about £140,000.

In the year 1847, the legislature, on the representations chiefly of the then Lord Advocate, and of Lord Breadalbane, and with the view of giving employment to the destitute Highland population, sanctioned the laying down of a railway from Glasgow to Dumbarton, and the lower end of Loch Lomond, and from the further extremity of this lake to Oban. Only one portion

* There are not short of *three millions* of tons of growing timber along the line, and 60,000 acres of improveable land.

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of this line has as yet been formed (viz., from Bowling Bay, on the Clyde, to Loch Lomond), which will greatly improve the means of communication, but it is not probable that the rest of the works will be attempted for several years to come.

Inns.

8. On the state of the inns, that momentous topic to the traveller, it may be safely asserted that accommodation, in this particular, is now almost universally pretty good—in many instances excellent. In the south Highlands, where they are all well frequented, the inns are commodious, and in every respect well conducted. Along the line of the public coach road from Perth to Thurso they are generally roomy and comfortable ; and though metropolitan elegance cannot be expected, and even much of low-country snugness is at times awanting, yet the traveller will find himself necessitated to forego but few of "the comforts of the Saut-market." On most of the other roads the inns are naturally on a lower scale. In the Great Glen, and from Fort-William to Stirling, and between Dingwall and Portree, they are generally of a respectable class ; and on all the parliamentary roads, and through most parts of the Highlands, and even in Sutherlandshire, where now the superior character of many of the inns will agreeably surprise the traveller, at intervals of from ten to fifteen miles, there are, if not in all cases exactly falling under the term inn, at least what are called, in Scotland, *public-houses ;* buildings consisting chiefly of two storeys, slated and floored, and containing from four to eight rooms. The latter are, perhaps, in some few instances, rather scantily furnished, and may want carpets and bed curtains, but they are generally provided with both ; and not unfrequently the tourist will be gratified by the unexpected *savoir vivre* he will meet with. Considering the recent establishment of these inns, and the want of familiarity on the part of the Highland peasantry with the more refined habits and comforts of the south, the business of innkeeping has fully kept pace with the other improvements of the country. If much refinement and elegance is not everywhere to be seen, there is at least abundance of substantial commodities : no lack of black-faced mutton and poultry, with the addition of salmon, and various other excellent fish, on the sea-coasts ; and, indeed,

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scarcely a burn but affords trout. The traveller may everywhere calculate on the luxuries of tea and sugar, and generally loaf-bread or biscuits ;—eggs and milk, with whisky, &c., always in abundance ;—not unfrequently a good bottle of wine, in sufficiently remote localities. The wayfarer need be under no apprehension of Highland eagles banqueting on his famished carcass, or of being subjected to any pyroligneous process in chimneyless hovels surcharged with "peat reek." There is no fear as to fare ; but the tourist's patience is sometimes not a little taxed by the tardiness of the attendance, arising from the comparatively limited intercourse in some directions. It must also be confessed that, in many of the inferior inns, there is a lamentable inattention to cleanliness, at least in the staircase and passage, and about the doors. The rooms, however, are not much to be complained of, though a little painting and papering would greatly improve them, and care is almost invariably observed to have the bedclothes and table-linen unobjectionable. Though we have experienced very little reason for the precaution, the more inexperienced traveller may not be the worse of being recommended to attend, at least in the more unfrequented roads, to have the bedclothes aired. We may add, that the horse will be as well off as his rider ; good stabling being seldom wanting. Neither need the Saxon be apprehensive of finding himself at a loss to make his wants known, as it very rarely happens that individuals are not now met with who understand the English language.

Steam Navigation.

Conveyance by steam has been as signal in its effects in our northern localities as elsewhere—annihilating distance, and pouring a tide of living energies through scenes heretofore secluded. Steam vessels ply daily in summer, and twice a-week all the year to and from Inverness and Glasgow, along the passage between the west coast and islands, and through the Caledonian Canal and its grand series of lakes. At each end of the Crinan Canal, as also at the west end of the Caledonian Canal, the passengers and luggage are now transferred, and the whole voyage is performed in summer in less than two days. The boats from Glasgow reach Oban about 5 P. M., and Fort-William and Bannavie the same evening, and those for Glasgow arrive

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at Bannavie about 3 P.M., and at Oban about six o'clock, remaining there for the night. In connexion with or independent of these boats, others diverge from Oban between May and October, now daily, weather permitting, to Staffa and Iona, making the circuit of the Island of Mull. Glencoe can also be visited every day from Oban, returning in the evening, or proceeding to Bannavie. Two boats ply every week from Glasgow to Oban and Skye, and one every fortnight proceeds as far as Stornoway in Lewis. These make the voyage round the Mull of Cantyre, calling at Port Askaig, in Islay, as also at Loch Inver, in Sutherlandshire. In and about the Firth of Clyde, steam-boats are innumerable; and steamers ramify from it in all directions. Two sail every day up and down Loch Lomond, which the tourist can visit from and return the same day to Glasgow; or he may reach it also, or Edinburgh, by the Trosachs and Stirling, there being a tiny steamer on Loch Catrine. Another boat also forms a regular communication between the head of Loch Tarbet and the Island of Islay. On the east coast, a large steamer plies every alternate Monday between London and Inverness, and ports in the Moray Firth; numerous steam vessels connect the metropolis with Edinburgh, Dundee, Montrose, and Aberdeen. Two of the Leith and Aberdeen boats proceed weekly to Inverness, leaving Leith on Tuesday and Thursday, and Inverness on Thursday night and Monday morning; and between all these places there are regular trading smacks. Of these steamers one alternately visits Aberdeen, and thus makes the voyage in twenty-four hours or less. Another steamer from Leith visits the ports on the Moray Firth and coasts of Sutherland, coming up too as far as Inverness; while a small steamer supplies the trade from Inverness to Invergordon, Findhorn, and the Little Ferry. A steam-boat now likewise plies every week between Leith and the Orkney and Shetland Isles—from Leith on Fridays, and from Kirkwall on Tuesdays. The passage by the London and Inverness boat is performed in sixty to seventy hours, and at a moderate expense. Two regular sailing packets ply between Leith and Kirkwall, and one from Leith to Stromness. The communication is thus once a fortnight. Larger and better vessels sail also once a fortnight between Leith and Shetland.

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Posting, &c.

10. Besides the public coaches, steam-boats, and packet vessels, travellers can, in most of the towns on the east coast and the southern boundary of the Highlands, be accommodated with post-chaises, open cars, and four-wheeled phaetons, gigs, and riding-horses, and with post-horses on the Highland road from Inverness to Perth. On the west coast, common carts, with a swing seat in the centre, are much used as substitutes for cars or gigs. There are such kept for hire at Fort-William, Ballachulish, and other neighbouring places; while at Oban there is a good supply of vehicles of various sorts.

Outline of the more interesting Routes.

11. It may not be unacceptable to the tourist to have an outline given of the most interesting routes through the Highlands. We will suppose him at Inverness, which he may have reached either by steam from London or Leith, or by the Highland road from Perth, and in the first instance not purposing to go farther north, and limited in time. The line of the Great Glen to Fort-William, and thence southwards, will be most generally followed; and we would recommend the traveller, should he be journeying, as he most probably will, by the steam-boat, to leave it at Oban, and proceed thence by coach round the head of Loch Awe and Dalmally; and thence by Loch Lomond to Glasgow or to Inverary. From Inverary he may proceed by steam down Loch Fyne, and through the Kyles of Bute, and up the Firth of Clyde; or by Loch Goilhead, Loch Long, or Loch Eck, to Greenock; or by Loch Lomond, or the Gareloch, to Dumbarton and Glasgow. By the public conveyances this distance from Inverness to Glasgow occupies two days in summer, and three the rest of the year. Should the traveller be pressed for time, he should not omit visiting Loch Lomond. If able to spare an additional day, let him follow either of the other courses; and, stopping at Dumbarton, from thence proceed to that beautiful lake, and diverge to the Trosachs and Stirling, from whence he may, if bent on it, reach Glasgow or Edinburgh the same night. But if he have more leisure, there are many objects to attract the tourist's attention along the main line.

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First in importance are the islands of Staffa and Iona. At Oban he will remove into another steam-boat, which will convey him round Mull, that same day, to Staffa and Iona, Tobermory, and back to Oban. Instead of returning at once from Tobermory, two or three days cannot be better employed than in visiting Skye, by the steam-boats which ply to that island. Next in interest to Staffa, the scientific traveller will perhaps be disposed to visit the Parallel Roads of Glenroy. This he must accomplish previously to leaving the Great Glen, by stopping at Letterfinlay on Loch Lochy, or at Fort-William. The former, or Spean Bridge midway, is most convenient in point of distance. By a little active exertion they may easily be visited, and Fort-William reached the same night. The ascent of Ben Nevis is a feat which most people feel an anxiety to perform. It will occupy one whole day. Should circumstances permit, we would suggest the Vale of Killean, eight or nine miles distant from the Fall of Foyers, as well worthy of a visit on foot or horseback, in connexion with the fall ; and, instead of going through with a boat, let the traveller cross the lake to Urquhart, and proceed four or five miles up that glen, as far as Loch Meiklie. Returning to Drumnadrochet, at the mouth of Glen Urquhart, he will proceed by the banks of Loch Ness to Invermoriston ; or, landing first at Urquhart, he can more conveniently be ferried over to Foyers at Ruisky, and recross the lake there again. A delightful excursion may be made from Invermoriston up Glen Moriston, and along Glen Shiel, to Loch Duich. From hence Skye can be readily reached. Or the pedestrian may cross the hill to Loch Hournhead, and from that return to the Great Glen at Invergarry ; or the tourist, retracing his steps up Glen Shiel to Cluany, will find a road leading into Glen Garry, at Tomandoun. The larger circuit from Invermoriston to Invergarry is about eighty miles. If not disposed to make this whole tour, still it will be well to ramble for five or six miles up Glen Moriston and Glen Garry. Loch Arkaig is well worthy of a visit. A parliamentary road leads to the foot of the lake from the village of Corpach, a distance of nine miles ; and a bad country road also communicates between Highbridge and Gairlochy, at the west end of Loch Lochy. The traveller will likewise find an excursion of two days from Fort-William or Corpach to Arisaig well repay the trouble ; or in one day Loch Shiel and Prince Charles's monu-

ment may be visited. Glencoe and Loch Leven are every way worthy of having a day devoted to them ; and the traveller can proceed from Ballachulish to Oban, either by water or land. He will be highly gratified either way. Glencoe is a daily excursion now from Oban. Lastly, the tourist may, in the course of a few days, with the greatest convenience, visit the islands of Isla and Jura, Colonsay, and Oronsay ; and he can be at no loss in reaching, from any part of the Clyde, either directly or by a little circuit, the Island of Arran—to explore whose wild and picturesque scenery and remarkable geological structure will be found of no ordinary interest.

To perform a complete tour of the Perth and Stirlingshire Highlands, the traveller should proceed to Stirling ; thence, if his time permit, we would recommend him, instead of proceeding direct to Loch Catrine, to go round by Crieff and Comrie to Lochearnhead. From that to Callander by Loch Lubnaig. This circuitous route to Callander from Stirling is fifty-two, the direct road only sixteen miles. The Trosachs and Loch Catrine can either be seen in one day from Stirling ; or the visitor may, from the upper end of the lake, return by Loch Ard, Aberfoyle, and other scenes celebrated in the novel of Rob Roy. The whole extent of this excursion, from and back to Stirling, is seventy-four miles. Should it be found impracticable both to go round by Crieff and to visit Loch Catrine, preference is due to the latter and contiguous scenery, or *vice versa*, and the round between Glasgow and Stirling accomplished in one day. It can also be reached from Loch Lomond. From Callander, the next stage in our progress northwards is Lochearnhead. The pedestrian may reach it from Loch Achray, by crossing the hill through Glenfinlas. Leaving Lochearnhead for Loch Tay, we reach Killin, and proceed by either side of the lake, the south preferable, to Kenmore, thence to the lower part of Glenlyon, and to Fortingal. But the tourist ought not to omit a visit to the Falls of Moness, at Aberfeldy. Instead of pursuing the course of the Tay, our advice is to cross from Fortingal to Strathtummel, either at Tummel Bridge, or Kinloch Rannoch, and to descend that valley, either crossing at the bridge of Garry, or by boat at Pitlochrie, farther down. Hence, through the romantic pass of Killiecrankie, we enter Blair Athole. Having examined the Falls of Bruar and Fender, and the beauties of Glen Tilt, the traveller, retracing his steps, will

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proceed to Dunkeld and Perth. The whole length of the devious route here chalked out is, from Stirling about 230, from Glasgow 260 miles. The main and direct line from Stirling to Loch Catrine, Loch Tay, Strathtummel, Blair, Dunkeld, and Perth, is about 150 miles.

Reconducting the reader now to the north, we would direct his notice to the high claims of the river Findhorn, and of Strathspey, to a share of the tourist's attention. An excursion from Inverness by Fort-George and Cawdor Castle to Forres, and thence up the Findhorn to Farness ; or if on foot, to Freeburn, and from either of these places to Grantown and the upper district of Strathspey, will be found full of interest. The distance from Inverness to Forres, Freeburn, Bridge of Carr, Grantown, Kinrara, and back to Inverness, may be about 140 miles ; or, proceeding straight from Forres to Grantown, about twenty miles less.

If desirous of becoming acquainted with Ross-shire and the northern counties, the traveller may make an agreeable journey, of 150 miles, from Inverness, by Dingwall, to Loch Carron, and back by Dornie, Shielhouse, and Loch Ness. We would especially recommend him to diverge from Auchnasheen to the head of Loch Maree, and after satisfying himself with the wild beauties of this fine sheet of water, whether as to be seen at its upper extremity, or by a sail to its numerous islands, or to the further end, let him, making if he incline a circuit by Gareloch, (now accessible by a road along Loch Maree) proceed from Kinloch Ewe to the head of Loch Torridon ; there to send back his vehicle to Auchnasheen, and to go on to meet him at Jeantown, while he takes boat for the village of Shieldaig, and thence walks on by Kishorn, or, better still, round by Applecross, to Jeantown ; where, resuming his conveyance, he will pursue the course indicated by Dornie — and he had better take Plockton and Balmacarra by the way—to Shielhouse and Invermoriston, devoting a day at Shielhouse to visit the Falls of Glomak. On his way to Loch Ness he can cross at Foyers to the Fall, and returning, take a run from Drumnadrochet for four or five miles up Glen Urquhart. With a gig, this excursion will occupy about seven or eight days, and we could hardly point out a more varied and interesting succession of scenery. The tourist will find some rich and fine scenery between Dingwall and Invergordon ; and, if an admirer of a fertile grain country, he will in Easter Ross, between the

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latter place and Tarbet Ness, find a great extent of land in as high a state of cultivation as any in the kingdom. In five or six days, the active pedestrian may, from Strathgarve, on the Loch Carron road, make a circuit by Loch Broom and Ullapool, Poolewe on Loch Maree, Gareloch and Loch Torridon, to Jeantown, a stretch of wild and grand scenery, but very little known; recently, however, much opened up by connecting lines of road, wanting only a few miles between Strath Broom and Little Loch Broom, to complete the communication; or from Ullapool, a walk of twenty miles past Achall, conducts by a beautiful route to Oikel Bridge, on the Assynt and Golspie road; whence the traveller can shape his course either to the north or east coast of Sutherlandshire. Whether he enters Ross-shire or not, he ought to visit the Falls of Kilmorack, on the Beauly; and he will not be disappointed if he penetrate to the head of Strathglass or Glenstrathfarar, or to Loch Affrick; nor, if on foot, can he find a tract more worthy of being explored than the shores of Benneveian and Loch Affrick, and descending thence into Kintail, past the stupendous Fall of Glomak. This indeed is a route which will well repay the pedestrian tourist's pains, should he choose it in connexion with that indicated by Dingwall, Jeantown, and Shielhouse, proceeding thence through Strath Affrick to Strathglass, instead of proceeding from Shielhouse by Loch Ness, which, with Glenmoriston, Urquhart, and Foyers, can be visited with equal convenience from Loch Ness. To render Lochs Benneveian and Affrick objects of more frequent attraction to all classes of travellers, nothing is wanted but the connexion of the head of Glen Urquhart and Strathglass, which requires the formation of only about three miles of road, and better accommodation at Invercanich in Strathglass, all which is projected, and, we trust, will soon be accomplished. This would open up one of the finest drives in the Highlands—say from Inverness, by the south side of Loch Ness to the Pass of Inverfarikaig, Fall of Foyers, Vale of Killean, and Fort-Augustus; thence to Invermoriston (which may be more conveniently approached along the north side of the lake, crossing to Foyers on the way, and recrossing), and eight or nine miles up the glen—along Loch Ness side to Drumnadrochet, and up Glen Urquhart into Strathglass at Invercannich, seven miles above Struy Bridge—up the course of the Glass to Loch Benneveian, to the end of which, eight miles above Invercannich, a good carriage road

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conducts, and beyond it the way must be found by boat, on foot, or horseback. Retracing his steps, the wayfarer descends Strathglass to Struy, Erchless Castle, the Drhuim, and Falls of Kilmorack, to Beauly Bridge, and regains Inverness by the fine district of the Aird. At Struy, Glenstrathfarar will be found well worthy of attention. The whole of this distance may be about 150 miles, and might be curtailed by omitting some of the scenes. Taken in connexion with the round from Dingwall by Loch Carron, Loch Maree, and Shielhouse (where the Falls of Glomak should not be forgotten), and Invermoriston, we do not think it possible in the compass of ten to fourteen days' travelling for the stranger to select a more admirable route. But for the present the little hiatus at the head of Glen Urquhart mars the continuity.

The circuit of the western section of Sutherlandshire, presenting a succession of wild and, till very recently, almost inaccessible scenes from Bonar Bridge, or the Mound (each about sixty miles from Inverness), to Tongue, Cape Wrath, and round by Assynt, is 180 miles.

From the Mound, round the west and north coasts of Sutherland and of Caithness shires, to John-o'-Groat's House, and thence by the east coast to the same point, the distance is rather more than 260 miles. The lover of cliff scenery will find ample gratification in this tour. An additional week or less will make him acquainted with all the more interesting features of the Orkney Islands.

Expense of Travelling.

12. We will conclude this article by giving a few particulars as to the expense of travelling in the Highlands. The rate of posting is 1s. 6d. a mile ; 1s. a mile, or about 15s. a-day, is usually charged for a car, or four-wheeled vehicle, or 10s. to 12s. with the horse's keep ; and 10s. for a gig, under the same condition ; and 5s. for a riding horse When required for several days together, about a fifth less than these prices will be taken. Nothing additional to the usual gratuity to himself, and his living, is charged for a lad, if required to take charge of the vehicle. A horse's keep in travelling will cost 4s. to 5s. a-day. The charges at the principal inns, in towns, are pretty much the same as in the south, viz. 2s., or 2s. 6d., to 3s., or 3s. 6d.

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for dinner ; 1s. 3d. to 2s. for a substantial breakfast, or similar evening repast ; 1s. to 2s. 6d. and 3s. for a bed, for which a charge is seldom made when the traveller has a horse. Port and sherry, 5s. a bottle ; malt liquor, 8d. or 10d. ; brandy, with warm water, at the rate of 3s. 6d. per half pint ; whisky about one-half that price, or less. In the country inns, the lower rates mentioned above, or less, are charged. Wine and brandy are seldom kept in the inferior inns, nor malt liquor, or it is of indifferent quality, where there is a land-carriage. Servants in the best inns are paid 4d. to 6d. a meal, by persons travelling singly ; in the inferior inns, they do not expect so much. The cabin fare by the steam-boats, from Glasgow to Inverness, is £1 : 1s. ; from Leith, 16s. ; from Aberdeen, 10s. ; and from London to Inverness, £3 : 10s. ; and £2 : 2s. steerage, living included ; from Leith to Orkney, £1 : 13s. ; from Glasgow to Oban, 10s. 6d. ; and thence to Staffa and Iona, and back, 21s. ; and to Skye, 25s., steerage, 8s. ; passengers paying extra for their eating. Three pounds are charged from London to Aberdeen, living included. The passage by the sailing smacks, between London and Inverness, is £1 : 11 : 6 ; for which abundance of substantial fare is provided, the average length of the passage being seven or eight days. A berth in one of the Leith and Orkney packets comes to 25s., living included. These reach their destination occasionally in thirty hours ; sometimes, though seldom, not for six or ten days. An inside seat in the coach, from Inverness to Perth (116 miles), costs 35s. ; an outside, 25s. : the mail 10s. and 7s. more. From Aberdeen to Inverness (108 miles), the charge is £2 inside, and 21s. outside. Between Inverness and Thurso (141 miles), by the mail, the fare is £2 : 11 : 6 inside, and £1 : 17 : 6 outside ; or 4½d. and 3d. per mile. The mail gigs charge about 2½d. per mile. Travellers complain with much reason of the burden of having to pay coachmen and guards in Scotland ; each of the former still occasionally only drives one stage, and for an average distance of eleven or twelve miles looks for his sixpence, while the guard expects at least at the rate of one-half that allowance throughout a long distance ; but the English fashion has brought the general rule into use, of being driven forty, fifty, or sixty miles by the same coachman, to whom 1s. to 1s. 6d., or 2s., is the customary *douceur*. The steamer fares, especially on the west coast, fluctuate from occasional opposition.

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SECTION III.

ROUTE I.

FROM GLASGOW TO OBAN, FORT-WILLIAM, AND INVERNESS.

Diversity of Routes, and their Characteristics, 1.—*By Crinan Canal.*—The River Clyde, 2.—Dumbarton Castle, 3.—The Frith of Clyde, Greenock, 4.—Dunoon Castle, 5.—The Ayrshire Coast; Battle of the Largs, 6.—Toward Castle, 7.—Rothesay, and Castle, 8.—Kyles of Bute, 9.—Argyle's Expedition in 1685, 10.—Loch Fyne; East Tarbet, 11.—Crinan Canal, 12.—Crinan to Oban, 13.—Whirlpool of Corryvreckan, 14.—Isle of Kerrera, 15.—Oban; Dunolly Castle, 16.—District around Oban, 17.—*Glasgow to Oban and to Fort-William, by Loch Lomond.*—Preferable Route, 18.—Dumbarton, 19.—Vale of the Leven, 20.—Loch Lomond, 21.—Ben Lomond, 22.—Glen Falloch, 23.—Battle of Glenfruin; The Clan Gregor, 24.—Robert Bruce's encounter in Glen Dochart, 25.—St. Fillan's Pool, 26.—Tyndrum to Dalmally, 27.—Loch Awe; Ben Cruachan, 28.—Kilchurn Castle, 29.—The Pass of Awe, 30.—Bunawe, 31.—Loch Etive, 32.—Ardchattan Priory, 33.—Connel Ferry, 34.—Dunstaffnage Castle, 35.—Berigonium, 36.—Oban, 37.—*Glasgow to Fort-William, by Loch Lomond.*—Loch Tollie; The Black Mount, 38.—Glencoe, 39.—Massacre of Glencoe, 40.—Loch Leven; The Serpent River; The Falls of Kinlochmore, 41.—Ballachulish, 42.—*From Glasgow to Oban, by Inverary.*—Different Routes, 43.—*By Loch Long.*—Loch Long, 44.—Glencroe; Glen Lochan; and Glen Finlass, 45.—Loch Fyne; Dunedera Castle, 46.—Inverary, 47.—Loch Fyne Herring; Inverary Castle, 48.—*To Inverary, by the Gareloch, Lochgoil, and Loch Eck.*—The Gareloch, 49.—Carrick Castle; Lochgoil, 50.—Holy Loch, 51.—Loch Eck, 52.—Glen Aray, 53.—Loch Awe; Port Sonachan; Glen Nant, 54.—*Oban to Inverness.* Loch Linnhe, 55.—Island of Lismore; Auchindown, 56.—Fort-William; Maryburgh, 57.—Ben Nevis, 58.—Lochaber; Castle of Inverlochy, 59.—Battle at Inverlochy 60.—Bannavie, 61.—Monument at Corpach, 62.—General Character of the Great Glen, 63.—Tor Castle, 64.—First Skirmish in 1745, 65.—Loch Lochy; Achnacarry; Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, 66.—Battle of Cean, Loch Lochy, 67.—Laggan; The Kennedies; The late Glengarry, 68.—Loch Oich; Invergarry Castle, 69; The Well of the Heads, 70.—Loch Oich to Fort Augustus, 71.—Fort-Augustus, 72.—Loch Ness, 73.—Invermoriston, 74.—Falls of Foyers, 75.—Boleskine; Inverfarikaig, 76.—Bona, or Bonessia; Loch Dochfour, 77; Dochfour to Inverness, 78.—*Caledonian Canal.*—Adaptation of the Great Glen for a Canal, 79.—Survey and Report by James Watt, 80.—Reasons for the formation of the Canal; Telford and Jessop's survey, 81.—General description of the Canal, 82.—Cost till 1827, when first opened, 83.—Imperfect state of the undertaking at this period, 84.—Report by Mr Walker in 1838, and nautical investigation by Sir W. Edward Parry, 85.—Completion of the Works by Messrs Jackson and Bean in 1843-7, 86.—Additional outlay; Extent of accommodation for vessels and of traffic now, 87.—Incorporation with the Crinan Canal, and Commission of Management, 88.—Adaptation of Inverness and line of the Canal for Manufactories, 89.—Prospective results to the Commerce of the Highlands, 90.—Southey's tribute to the memory of Telford, 91.—*Roads along the Great Glen*, 92.—Fort-Augustus to Invermoriston; Lower part of Glenmoriston, 93.—Invermoriston to Drumnadrochet, 94.—Aultsigh Burn; Raid of Cillie-Christ, 95. Glen Urquhart; The Falls of Dhivach, 96.—Drumnadrochet to Inverness, 97.—Fort Augustus to Foyers; Vale of Killin, 98.—Stratherrick; The River Foyers, 99.—The General's Hut, 100.—The Pass of Inverfarikaig, 101.—Inverfarikaig to Dores, 102.—Dores to Inverness, 103.

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By Crinan Canal.

	Miles.	Miles.
Glasgow to Greenock	—	26
Rothesay	19	45
Tarbet	27	72
Lochgilphead	13	85
Crinan Canal	9	94
Easdale	20	114
Oban	15	129
Appin	12	141
Bannavie	21	162
Loch Lochy, S.W. end	7½	169½
Loch Lochy	10	179½
Fort-Augustus	11	190½
Loch Ness	23¾	214¼
Muirtown Locks	6¾	221
Inverness	1	222

By Loch Lomond.

Glasgow to Dumbarton	14	14
Balloch	5	19
Loch Lomond	30	49
Crianlarich	9	58
Tyndrum	3½	61½
Dalmally	12½	
Taynuilt	12	
Connel Ferry	6	
Oban	5	
From Tyndrum	35½	
From Glasgow	97	
Inverouran	9	70½
King's House	9	79½
Ballachulish	16	95½
Fort William	14	109½
Spean Bridge	8	117½
Letterfinlay	8	125½
Invergarry	7½	133
Fort-Augustus	7½	140½
Invermoriston	7	147½
Drumnadrochet	13	160½
Inverness	14	174½

By Inverary.

Glasgow to Dumbarton	14	—
Luss	12½	26½
Tarbet	8	34½
Arroquhar	1½	36
Cairndow	14	50

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	Miles.	Miles.
Inverary	9¼	59¾
Dalmally	16	75¾
Taynuilt	12	87¾
By Portsonachan.....	21¼	
Oban	11	98¾

1. The circuit from the metropolis of the west of Scotland to that of the Highlands, by the coasts of Argyleshire and through the Great Glen, is the route most frequented by the crowds of tourists attracted each succeeding season to the north of our island. In this tour great variety of choice may be indulged, as one has the power of making the whole journey by steamer, through the Kyles of Bute and the Crinan Canal—of being transported by coach either to Oban or Fort-William, with a water trip intervening on Loch Lomond. Or the traveller may take Inverary on the way; to it again, selecting as it may be either of the accesses by Loch Lomond, the Gareloch, Loch Long, Loch Goil, Loch Eck, or Loch Fyne. As each and all of these lines of direction are replete with the very finest features of mountain and water scenery, and converge upon the western extremity of the Great Glen of Scotland, with its chain of inland lakes connected by the Caledonian Canal, and uniting the Moray Firth with Loch Linnhe, which respectively at either end prolong this grand valley into the German and Atlantic Oceans, the attractions of this favourite route can be readily understood. There is, indeed, certainly nothing within the compass of the British islands at all to be compared with it in point of extent of continuous grandeur, diversity, and beauty. The whole is singularly magnificent, and far from palling by repetition, each new peregrination will be found to add fresh zest to the enjoyment of the incomparable scenery through which we are conducted. Now, too, the steamers and other conveyances are of a much improved class, and large and commodious inns have been erected at Ardrishaig, on the Crinan, and at Bannavie, on the Caledonian Canals; the access to this last being further improved by the construction of a suspension bridge across the river Lochy, near Fort-William. The whole distance is accomplished in from a day and a half to two days —the intermediate night (by steamer) being spent at Bannavie on the way north, and at Oban on the way south. Coaching between Glasgow and Fort-William or Oban makes no differ-

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ence in time, except on the journey north by Oban, as the coaches do not arrive in time for the same day's steamer. The Messrs. Burns of Glasgow, into whose hands the great bulk of the traffic alongst the routes in question has passed—though after all but a trifling branch of their very extended establishments—are laying themselves out by a constant adaptation of the resources at their command, to the increasing demands of the public, to afford accommodations in every department of a superior order, and to provide ample facilities of communication in every eligible direction, and at very moderate charges.

Of these different routes, that

By the Crinan Canal,

as longer familiar to the public, may with propriety take precedence.

2. This route is entirely a marine excursion. There is no land journey. But the steamers' pathway is so completely landlocked, that there are no high seas to be encountered, though at times, in passing the Slate Islands, the swell from the Atlantic in fresh weather may somewhat discompose unaccustomed constitutions.

We must leave to others the description of the great emporium of the commerce, wealth, and enterprise of Scotland. Wending our way then at once to the Broomielaw, we embark in one of the well-appointed swift steamers which now daily during the season—besides luggage boats all the year—convey their respective quota of passengers to Inverness and the places intermediate. The channel of the river Clyde being now deepened, so as to admit vessels of large draught up to Glasgow, its wharves are found crowded with shipping and steamers of all sizes and dimensions. Along the river banks are seen the hulls of immense iron and other steam-vessels, in various stages of progress, the Clyde shipbuilders and machinists having attained a high reputation; and the tall receding chimney stalks giving out incessant volumes of murky smoke—that of St. Rollox far pre-eminent, reaching as it does a height of more than 400 feet, continue to testify to that manufacturing industry, of which our sojourn in the city had already furnished perhaps over-abundant proofs. Imposing lines of buildings extend in the back ground on the north, and numerous villas bedeck the face

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of the country on the south bank. About a couple of miles down the river the villages of Govan on the left, and of Partick on the right hand, meet the eye. On either hand the country is low but fertile ; and as the boat passes along, some fine mansions, as Jordanhill and Scotstown, Elderslie and Blythswood, claim attention. About six miles down, the house tops of the ancient burgh of Renfrew are descried on the left, and further inland the smoke of Paisley indicates its position. Some miles on, passing the villages of Old and New Kilpatrick, the birthplace of St. Patrick, we come to Port Dunglas, and the remains of its Roman fortress, marking the western extremity of the old Roman wall or Graham's Dyke which extended between the two firths, and to Bowling Bay, at the termination of the Forth and Clyde Canal. Here a small obelisk commemorates the enterprise and ingenuity of Mr. Henry Bell, who originated that steamer traffic to which the Clyde owes so much of its opulence. On the southern shore, as we near Dumbarton, Blantyre House (Lord Blantyre), a princely mansion, commands admiration from its extent and elegance, and finely wooded parks. On the north the Kilpatrick trap hills run in upon the water.

3. Dumbarton's isolated rock, protruded to an elevation of upwards of 200 feet, at the confluence of the Leven and Clyde on the north side of the latter river, with its bristling batteries, forms a conspicuous object in a landscape of surpassing richness and brilliancy. It is basaltic, and in many place columnar, and is split into twin summits. The governor's house stands in a recess on the south side, not much above the base of the rock : from it a steep ascent, by flights of steps between a narrow gap, conducts to the confined space between the two summits, at the further end of which are erected the armoury and the barracks. The former contains 1500 stand of arms ; the latter can accommodate about 150 men. Within the memory of man, the entrance was by a footpath up the sloping bank formed of debris on the north side. In the armoury is kept Wallace's great double-handed sword, an interesting memento of the mighty dead. The guns of the fortress, sixteen in number, are arranged about the governor's house, in the face of the highest rock, nearly in the same line, and pointing down the firth, behind the barracks, and on the top of the lower eminence. A very old fragment of masonry remains on the latter, but

coeval with what period tradition gives no note. In "Balclutha's walls of Towers," mentioned by Ossian, we recognise Dumbarton's castellated rock. It was the capital of the Strathclyde Britons. Alcluith is mentioned by Bede as *urbs munitissima ;* and the possession of it being always regarded as a matter of importance, it figures repeatedly in the stormy history of our country. Still it was not one of the four principal fortresses given to the English in 1174, in security of the ransom of William the Lion, and it is believed to have been at that time only the principal residence of the Earls of Lennox, the third of whom, Maldwin, surrendered it into the hands of Alexander II. On one occasion it was the scene of a most adventurous exploit. We allude to the perilous but successful escalade by Crawford of Jordanhill, during Queen Mary's reign. While in the possession of her partisans, this officer of the Regent Lennox, with a few followers, on the 2d May 1571, achieved the daring enterprise of scaling the dizzy precipice, under cloud of night, surmounting in their progress an unexpected and a very embarrassing difficulty. One of the party, in ascending a ladder, was seized with a fit of epilepsy. As the profoundest silence was necessary, the most imminent hazard arose of their being discovered by the man's falling, or the noise unavoidable in attempting his removal. The expedient however was promptly adopted, of making him fast to the ladder, which was then turned, and his comrades were thus enabled to pass, and reach the summit unobserved.

A striking picture is presented as we pass the mouth of the Leven, when the town behind the castle, and its ship-building yards, and its glass-house cones, combine with the castellated rock as a foreground to the fair and fertile vale of Leven, bounded in the distance by the pyramidal summit of "the lofty Benlomond." The panorama from the top of the castle rock is extensive, varied, and beautiful, of the river and Firth of Clyde, the Leven, and the Highlands girdling in various but unseen fresh and salt-water lochs. An eminence on the elevated ground, intermediate between the Leven and the Gareloch, and not far from Dumbarton, is interesting, as the site of the castle in which Robert Bruce frequently resided, and in which he died.

4. We are now fairly on the expanding bosom of the Firth, skirted by fertile sloping shores, diversified with intermingling

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woods. At Port Glasgow, now somewhat of a misnomer, as it continues but partially to fulfil that relation, Newark Castle, a large quadrangular pile by the sea, with numerous chimney stalks and hanging turrets, momentarily recalls us from the busy present to the days of other years. On the opposite coast the long extending houses of Helensburgh, one of the favourite sea-bathing villages which abound on the Clyde, mark the entrance to the Gareloch, concealed behind the wooded peninsula of Roseneath, on which may be descried an elegant Italian villa, a seat of the Argyle family.

Greenock, the birth place of Watt, is an important and bustling sea-port. Its prolonged and many-peopled quay, with its spacious and handsome custom-house, backed by docks filled with shipping, is all alive with the hurry of arriving and departing steamers.

The reach of the Firth to the Cloch Light-house, where the coast line bends to the south, is one of uncommon character. On the north its waters sweep backwards to the circling hills, amongst which they indent themselves in the embracing arms of the Holy Loch, Loch Goil, and Loch Long. Holy Loch is studded with an uninterrupted zone of neat and ornamental and cheerful villas, forming and connecting the villages of Dunoon and Kilmun. On the south the villas adjoining Greenock and Gourock equally betoken the eager concourse of the teeming population of Glasgow for the enjoyment of the healthful influences of salt water and the sea breeze. The shores around are lined with one beauteous frame of cultivated and wooded slopes. The sterner features of alpine scenery in the ranges of high and rugged mountains to the north, contrast with the softer graces impressed by the hand of art on the low grounds. Steam-boats glide along the water, while trading vessels, with, it may be, a sprinkling of yachts and pleasure boats, with less undeviating speed, are fain to woo the uncertain breeze. It is difficult to conceive, without witnessing, the thoroughfare of steamers which the Clyde presents. In the season the streets of Glasgow are almost literally deserted by the fairer portion of the inhabitants, who flock to summer quarters on the Clyde, some as far removed as Rothesay, Largs, Ardrossan, and Arran, distances of forty to fifty miles and more, while their lords (of the married portion) find their way down as often during the week as circumstances permit; but on the Saturdays, or on

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Friday afternoons, they literally crowd the steamers' decks, as fully bent on holiday relaxation as when in schoolboy days they made weekly escape from restraint, returning to their several avocations on the Monday morning. The privilege to the population of such a ready and noble outlet is unspeakable, while the consequent enrichment of the coast, with the enlivening movement of this living tide, co-operate to heighten the attractions of this magnificent estuary, which, taken all in all, is unrivalled in the three kingdoms. The cabin fares are less than a penny, in some instances not exceeding a halfpenny, a mile. All this life upon the water is, notwithstanding the rivalry of a parallel line of railway from Glasgow to Greenock, another by Paisley to Ardrossan, and now a third in progress on the north side of the river, to connect the city with Loch Lomond.

5. On a green rocky knoll projecting from the centre of the village of that name, are the foundation walls of the ancient Castle of Dunoon, which seems to have been little more than a single tower. It originally owned the hereditary High-stewards of Scotland as its proprietors; and it was bestowed on the Argyle family by the crown in return for the important services rendered in aid of Robert the Steward, in Edward II.'s reign, by Sir Colin Campbell of Lochow. Dunoon Castle was taken by Edward Baliol, and retaken by Robert Stewart, grandson of Robert Bruce, about the year 1334. It was a favourite place of resort of that monarch for the enjoyment of the chase. On one of these occasions an attempt to surprise him was made by Aymer de Valence, accompanied by 1500 horsemen; but the Bruce having got intimation of the design, encountered and defeated them in Glenderuel. Dunoon Castle was also taken in 1544 by the Earl of Lennox, after a gallant resistance by the Earl of Argyle. It formed the residence of the Argyle family till about the end of the seventeenth century. Dunoon was also a Diocesan residence at one period. It is now one of the most fashionable bathing-places on the Clyde.

6. The steamer's course now keeps the northern or western shore, but the Ayrshire coast is sufficiently near to enable us to appreciate the range of low beach, surmounted by hanging woods, verdant pastures, and corn-fields. Various little enchanting indentations as at Innerkip—where Ardgowan, the mansion of Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, peers forth from an

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affluence of foliage mantling the hill-sides ; and Wemyss Bay, each present their clustering villas ; and marine residences of manufacturing and commercial magnates continue to dot the shore line on either hand. At the Bay of Largs there is a village of some pretensions—another at Fairlie of smaller size, but almost wholly composed of handsome residences, with enclosed garden-grounds of exuberant vegetation, and those near the water's edge each provided with its appurtenance of a boat-house. But these places are barely discernible. Largs is remarkable as the scene of the great battle, or more correctly, of the series of desperate skirmishes, in which Haco, King of Norway, was defeated, with great slaughter, in 1263, and the power of Norway in the west of Scotland irretrievably broken by the Scottish army under Alexander III. A curious sarcophagus, quite entire, formed by huge and undressed slabs, on a plateau immediately above the extremity of Largs, on the Fairlie road, would seem to indicate the thick of the fray, or the spot where some great leader fell.

In front of us, as we advance, the Island of Bute to the north, with the small isles of the Cumbrays towards the Ayrshire coast, and between and beyond the highly imposing elevation of the Island of Arran, Goatfell, and contiguous peaks, conspicuous amongst its lofty and rugged summits, form a fine and varied screen. In the remote distance we may detect the conical form of Ailsa Craig.

7. On to the Point of Toward, the extremity of the peninsula of Cowal, are a lighthouse and the ruins of Castle Toward, the ancient stronghold of the Lamonts, and a splendid modern mansion of the same name, the seat of —— Finlay, Esq.

Of the old castle, which stood on a detached mound in front of a now wooded hill a little westward of the Point, but a single tower remains. The offices of the modern building are erected as for an outwork and gate of entrance to the castle, of which the design is showy, but wanting in the massiveness and imposing effect of the gloomy strongholds of the olden time. On passing the east coast of Bute, Mount Stewart, the seat of the Marquis of Bute, comes into view. Should the tourist's arrangements lead him to a sojourn on the island, he will be much gratified by the great growth of the timber and extensive range of the woods about this seat, and he will find here, too, a fine collection of paintings.

8. The Island of Bute is nearly eighteen miles long by five broad. Rothesay, an ancient burgh, is a favourite resort, in summer, of the inhabitants of Glasgow. Its crescent-shaped and deeply imbedded bay is well protected by the encircling hills. The population is about 4000; and, depending partly on letting lodgings, the villas about are numerous, and varied in their style and sizes, and much attention is paid to the cleanliness of the place, while its fine and well-filled harbour lends it unusual animation and interest. The fineness of the climate adds a fresh charm to the wayfarer in the luxuriant shrubberies fronting the bay—fuchsias, in particular, attaining quite a remarkable size; while its salubrity recommends it to the invalid for the invigorating of the bodily frame. The principal inns are the Bute Arms and the Clydesdale. This town, in addition to its healthy and romantic situation, is rendered interesting by the ruins of its magnificent, old, and ivy-cased castle, which is supposed to have been built in the eleventh century, and was long a royal palace, and the scene of the death of Robert III. Rothesay Castle was reduced by Haco, King of Norway, in his expedition in 1263, and was subsequently held by Rudric, one of his officers, whose daughter intermarried with the Stewards, its previous possessors. The building is of considerable extent, there being connected with the palace a spacious circular court, about 140 feet in diameter, formed by high and thick ivy-cased walls; on the outside of which a terraced walk extends around the castle, separated from the adjoining grounds by a wide and deep ditch. This castle was partially injured by Cromwell's soldiers; and the work of destruction was completed by a brother of the Earl of Argyle in 1685. Close by the castle is a large new jail and court-house. Several graceful church spires serve to make up a most striking picture from the water, especially where the towering ridges of Arran come into view in the back ground. A green knoll on the west side of the bay, surmounted by the ruins of an old chapel, commands a view of a low valley which stretches across the island to Scalpsie Bay on the opposite side of the island, and containing the waters of Loch Fad, but slightly elevated above high water mark. This valley is finely cultivated, and intersected by large ash, sycamore, and beech; and on a ridge, descending into it, stands the parish church, and the remains

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of a Roman Catholic chapel, in the walls of which, under two canopied recesses, are full-sized effigies in stone, which, with one in the centre of the floor, are locally held to represent three brothers, called "the stout Stewarts of Bute," companions in arms of Sir William Wallace, and who fell at the battle of Falkirk. The shores of Loch Fad were selected by Kean the tragedian as a place of residence.

9. The Kyles of Bute, in their general character, are exceedingly pleasing, as they wind between moderately-sized hills of undulating and unbroken outline, frequently sinking sheer upon the water, and seeming to landlock the passage; heathy towards their summits, but verdant below, and there fringed with irregular, waving lines of copse-wood and young plantations and stripes of cultivated ground. Mingled agricultural and pastoral features, with successive headlands and windings of the sea, are the characteristics which thus distinguish the Kyles. Yet, from want of any marked features, perhaps the general impression is rather one of disappointment. At the head of Loch Strevan we perceive the terminating chains of the Highland mountains disposed in several lofty rather detached rounded cones, verdant but devoid of trees; while towards Toward Point the softening ranges subside in wooded and cultivated slopes. About two miles from Rothesay the steam-boat passes the bay and village of Port Bannatyne on the Bute shore at the east end, with Kaims Castle, an old castellated mansion, at the head of the bay. Opposite Rothesay is the house of Achinwillan.

10. At the entrance of Loch Ridden, on the right, and about the centre of the Kyles, on the islet of Eilangreig, are seen the ruins of a castle which was garrisoned in 1685 by the Earl of Argyle in his unsuccessful enterprise, and dismantled by some English ships sent for the purpose.

Argyle, having opposed, and afterwards refused to subscribe, a test which was devised by government against the free principles cherished by the more determined friends of Protestantism, had been tried and condemned as guilty of treason; but he contrived to effect his escape from Edinburgh Castle, and took refuge in Holland. Here, with other disaffected refugees of distinction, he concerted an expedition to Scotland, and sailed from Rotterdam with three ships and about 300 men; the Duke of Monmouth, at the same time, taking charge of a similar

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small armament to make a descent on the coast of England. Partly from want of due precaution in the Orkneys, intelligence of Argyle's movements and force was furnished to government, so that adequate preparations were made to oppose him. He however collected a small army of 2500 of his own and other clans ; but, remaining too long inactive in Argyleshire, he was hemmed in by superior numbers ; and, his followers being eventually obliged to disperse, he was taken prisoner at Inchinnan, near Renfrew, carried to Edinburgh, and beheaded on the 26th June, 1685, meeting death with distinguished fortitude. Monmouth, equally unfortunate, suffered a like fate on Tower Hill. Argyle had deposited his stores, to the amount of 5000 stand of arms, and 300 barrels of gunpowder, in Eilangreig, under the charge of a garrison of 150 men, who abandoned the castle, without offering any resistance, to a royal squadron, which also captured Argyle's vessels, and destroyed the fortifications.

11. Passing on the left the dark mountains of Arran, from every point of view a striking group, from their beetling precipices and strongly defined outlines, and rounding Ardlamont Point, the steamer enters Loch Fyne. Skipness Castle, to be seen on the coast of Cantyre, was one of the most capacious strongholds in the Highlands ; being surrounded by a high and extensive wall, and the area subdivided by a cross wall into two compartments, within one of which stands the ancient square keep of four storeys, still inhabited ; having also two other small projecting square towers. The shores of Cowal, on the right, are low and uninteresting, and the hills without character; the Knapdale coast pretty high, wild, and unattractive.

East Tarbert Bay, where a narrow isthmus joins Knapdale with Cantyre, surrounded with exceedingly bare, rough, rocky knolls, with the frowning ruins of its castle, is uninviting, so that there is no room for regret that we are denied a close inspection ; but the bay is a secure anchorage, and the village a flourishing one, and contains an excellent inn. The ancient keep, of four storeys, perched on a high rock, near the entrance on the southern shore, with the hanging ruined outer wall, which encircled a very irregular area, perhaps two acres in extent, and within which may have been a whole colony of huts, besides the garrison, and larger buildings, are all that remain of the old castle which was built by Robert the Bruce. Like Skipness on the same coast of Cantyre, the tower has its stair-

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case in the heart of the strong thick wall, and has no corner turrets: the rooms were small, but plastered; and the outer screens had large round towers at intervals, two in particular, between which was the main approach, but none entire. Ivy and rank grass overtop the whole. A scheme was of late years projected for uniting East and West Loch Tarbert by a canal, which would have been of importance, particularly to the trade of Islay. For the present it is in abeyance.

12. Arrived near the thriving village of Lochgilphead, a disembarkation takes place, the windings of the Crinan Canal having to be threaded in a light track boat. The process, and of re-embarkation again into another steam vessel at the further extremity, occasions a rather disagreeable anxiety for the safe forwarding of one's luggage, though the attendants are very careful in seeing after the transmission of every package. Still, there might be some amendment in regard to such small articles as may take injury, yet prove rather cumbersome to carry one's self. The variety of conveyance is in itself a pleasing change. This canal, intersecting the root of that long promontory known by the name of Cantyre, is about nine miles in length. From the dimensions of the locks, which in this short space are no fewer than fifteen in number, each ninety-six feet in length, by twenty-four in breadth, and the sharp windings of the water-way, its utility in saving the doubling of the Mull of Cantyre, which is both tedious and hazardous, is confined to vessels of small burthen. Cut out of banks of mica slate, which are surmounted by brushwood and trees, and festooned with honey-suckle and other plants, while an extensive moorland accompanies us on the right, the navigation is highly pleasing and picturesque. This is especially so at the outset, where the grounds of Achindarroch House or Oakfield (Campbell) lie alongside, and on the other hand, Kilmorie Castle (Sir John Ord) embellishes the view.

13. Arrived at the further end, and on board the steamer in waiting there, as the detention at the locks generally induces a good deal of walking, all parties find themselves pretty well prepared to appreciate the well-ordered appointments of the dinner-table. Quitting the Bay of Crinan, Duntroon—a modernized castle (——— Malcolm), forms a conspicuous object. The run hence to Ardincaple Point, south of Kerrera Sound, is an interesting part of the voyage. The numerous

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detached objects, islands, mountains, headlands, bays, and inlets, broken up into successive compartments, in their rapid transmutations, keep the attention excited. The lofty conical mountains, hence called the Paps of Jura, are objects too striking not to be alluded to. Off the point of Craignish, near the Bay of Crinan, are several beautiful and picturesque islands; and along the coast the trap dykes assume fantastic castellated appearances. Loch Craignish, an arm of the sea, is distinguished by a chain of islands in its centre, stretching longitudinally alongst it in a line parallel with the shores, and composing, in their varied bold rocky, and, in some places, cultivated and wooded spaces, with similar flanking coasts, a landscape peculiar and striking, of which a glimpse is obtained.

14. Corryvreckan, the strait between the northern extremity of Jura and the mountainous island of Scarba, possesses a widespread notoriety. The commotion of the tides pouring through this narrow passage is heightened by a large sunk rock. This dangerous communication is studiously avoided by vessels; and to small craft at certain times it would prove sure destruction. The author of the old Statistical Account of Jura gives us the following graphic picture of this whirlpool :—" The gulf is most awful with the flowing tide; in stormy weather with that tide it exhibits an aspect in which a great deal of the terrible is blended. Vast openings are formed, in which, one would think, the bottom might be seen; immense bodies of water tumble headlong as over a precipice, then, rebounding from the abyss, they dash together with inconceivable impetuosity, and rise foaming to a prodigious height above the surface. The noise of their conflict is heard throughout the surrounding islands."

" On the shores of Argyleshire," says Campbell the poet, " I have oftened listened to the sound of this vortex, at the distance of many leagues. When the weather is calm, and the adjacent sea scarcely heard on these picturesque shores, its sound, which is like the sound of innumerable chariots, creates a magnificent and fine effect." Mariners never choose to tempt the dangers of this gulf. Vessels of burthen, however, can make the passage; and at particular times it is tranquil enough for boats to venture.

15. Nearing Loch Feochan, the steamer's course lies through intricate groupes of islands, Luing, Seil, Shuna, Lunga, Eas-

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dale, and many others, on which there are excellent slate quarries. These, with the workmen's houses, and vessels shipping cargo, are an animated scene. They are near the shore, and the steamer runs between and across the opening of Loch Melford.

The dark mountainous Island of Mull, with its iron-bound shores, and the hills of Morven, famed in song, are now seen to close in the seaward view. But in entering on that long stretch of inland sea called Loch Linnhe, the attention is diverted to the eastern coast, by the intervention of the long Island of Kerrera, distinguished by the ruins at its southern termination of the Danish Fort Gylen. To the geologist this island is of peculiar interest, as exhibiting singular junctions of primary, secondary, and trap rocks, and a curious angular conglomerate or breccia. The circumstance of its being the spot where King Alexander II. died on his memorable expedition in 1249, and the place of rendezvous where Haco of Norway a few years afterwards met his island chieftains, who, crowding with their galleys to assist him in his descent on the coasts of Scotland, augmented his fleet to 160 sail, will ever command for Kerrera the attention of the antiquary.

16. Kerrera forms a natural breakwater to the Bay of Oban, stretching right across, and rendering it a peculiarly secure haven. The bay is not capacious, but is flanked by nearly parallel wooded rocks, and hemmed in by a higher rocky frontlet, at the base of which stretch the houses of the village—a long line of neat buildings, chiefly of two storeys, slated and white-washed, fronting the water, and presenting a very cheerful and pleasing appearance. On a high, isolated rock, forming the northern promontory of the bay, girt by perpendicular precipices, and accessible only on one side, stands Dunolly Castle, an ivy-clad square keep, an ancient seat of the Macdougals of Lorn, descendants of the mighty Somerled of the Isles. It is four storeys high ; but, with the exception of the vaulted dungeon, which is still entire, the building is now a mere shell. Portions are standing of a wall which, springing from two opposite angles, ran along the brink of the rock, enclosing an irregular court. Conspicuous on the face of the rising ground behind the village, a tasteful Free Church, of light early English architecture, with a low Norman Tower and pointed spire, after a design by Mr. Pugin has been lately erected. Nearly opposite the

quay a larger and loftier elevation indicates the Caledonian Hotel, a very commodious and well-conducted establishment. There are two or three other inns of less pretensions, and a large proportion of the inhabitants lay themselves out for the accommodation of lodgers. Oban being a place of great resort in the season, it is the centre of steam communication on the west coast. One is hardly prepared, in so remote a corner, to find on some days of the week as many at times as nine or ten steamers arriving and departing daily. There is a daily steamer, and, on certain days, as many as three steamers to Glasgow. One every day, and two on alternate days, to Fort-William and Inverness. One thrice a week—indeed almost daily—to Staffa and Iona, and round the Island of Mull, and two every week to Skye, and one to Stornoway. There are besides two daily coaches, one from Glasgow by Loch Lomond, the other from Inverary. It is also a favourite sea-bathing quarter and place of summer residence. Indeed, in the months of July and August, it literally swarms with strangers. Yet, for sea-bathing it is not well adapted. The water is all that could be desired, and the beach is pretty good, but the ground along shore is so confined, that there is little privacy, and there are no bathing machines. This is, indeed, a general want on the west coast. On the Clyde, however, the houses often lining the roadway along the bathing ground, persons can dress and undress in-doors, though it is anything but seemly in the fair sex in their bathing gear to cross the public way so unconcernedly as they do. But, indeed, the good people of Oban are singularly behind hand in meeting the requirements which one would suppose to be indispensable to the suitable lodgment of their migratory visitors, if not to their own comfort. The ground-storey of the houses being chiefly occupied with shops—some of them very good—a peculiar mode of access to the upper floor prevails, viz., by a passage right through the dwelling, and then up an outside back stone staircase. Thus, and from close contiguity, the back areas are disagreeably overlooked—in one part of the town the exposure is heightened by the back-ground being to the water side. Many of the houses are disgracefully deficient in some of the arrangements essential to the decencies of life, and preservation of health. A drawback to the well-being of the place is the limited supply of fresh water, which would probably call for consi-

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derable expense to remedy by artificial contrivances. Some more unexceptionable houses are springing up at the north end of the village. The furniture is very commonplace, and the apartments plain enough. But the charges are high. There is no regular butcher or vegetable market; the supplies are uncertain, and mostly of inferior quality, even the mutton being ill-fed and scraggy; and, what will seem more strange, there is but little fish to be had. A good deal of salmon and salmon-trout at times, but only so, and herring; but there is no white fish caught in the bay—what is exposed for sale, and that in but moderate quantity, being brought chiefly from Loch Etive. It is rather surprising, considering the steam communication, that abundant supplies of all eatables should not flow in from other places for general consumpt. The inns, of course, have their own source of supply. No mean compensation is abundant and capital dairy produce, excellent bread, and good groceries. There are some most respectable shops—among others, a bookseller's, with a tolerable library. Will it be believed that at this time of day there is no direct post between Oban and Fort-William—a distance of only forty miles—and that a letter from the one to the other has to be conveyed round by Inverary, Glasgow, Perth, and Inverness, and the answer, of course, to make the same extraordinary roundabout?

17. Yet with these drawbacks a few weeks can be spent delightfully at Oban. The scenery around is in the highest degree grand, varied, and beautiful; indeed, the whole features of the district are remarkable, and it comprises many most noted localities, while antiquarian remains of great interest abound in the neighbourhood. We need but enumerate Staffa, Iona, the Sound of Mull, Loch Etive, Loch Creran, the Pass of Awe, Loch Leven, and Glencoe, Ben Nevis, Ben Cruachan, Dunstaffnage, and Dunolly, Duart, Ardtornish, Aros, Mingarry, Loch Alline, Inverlochy, Kilchurn, Gylen, and other castles; Achendown, the Bishop of Lismore's Palace, and Ardchattan Priory; Berigonium, the site, at least reputed, of that Pictish capital; memorials, some of actual monarchy, others of the almost regal sway of those great princes, the Lords of the Isles, and rival families of almost equal note. And these are very accessible from the numerous public conveyances, and the facilities of transport by boat, besides which, there are very good vehicles kept for hire. In the immediate vicinity of Oban

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there is much to interest. The heights above command splendid views across the water, the huge sombre mountains of Mull looming above the intervening green and rocky Isle of Kerrera. From an agreeable promenade in front of the main street, we can bend our steps along the sides of the bay—though on the north the limits are somewhat confined by the grounds of Dunolly—or, by an outlet at either extremity of the street, find our way into the country behind, which is of that irregular surface characteristic of a trap and conglomerate formation. From Dunolly the prospect is very fine. The drive to Loch Feochan to the south is picturesque, while, in the opposite direction, an interval of four miles brings us to Dunstaffnage, an imposing pile, the residence (though not the existing edifice) of our early Scottish kings; and by extending the excursion as far again—from the low rocky eminence on the opposite bay of Ardnamucknish, the Selma of Ossian, and supposed to indicate the site of Berigonium—a panorama of mingled mountain, water, rock, and plain, is commanded, of great expanse and most striking character.

Here we may add, that the powerful Staffa and Iona boats make the circuit of the island of Mull, and regain Oban about six o'clock in the evening, and that a steamer proceeds to Fort-William and Corpach in the morning, to bring on the passengers who leave Inverness the same morning by the canal steamers. On the way tourists are landed at Ballachulish, where there are conveyances up Glencoe, and they are picked up again on the return voyage in the evening; or they can, by a small boat, join the Glasgow boat, which passes on in the evening to Corpach, where the north-going passengers spend the night, while the northern travellers on their way south make Oban their resting place.

Having conducted the reader as far as Oban, we retrace our steps to carry on the descriptions of the other routes thus far, before proceeding onwards.

To commence with that

FROM GLASGOW TO OBAN AND TO FORT-WILLIAM BY LOCH LOMOND.

18. Though each of the different routes to the north, by the west coast, possesses its own peculiar attractions, the palm must be assigned to that by Loch Lomond and Loch Awe to

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Oban, or by Glencoe to Fort-William. But Glencoe can be conveniently visited on the way from Oban to Fort-William, which itself is not to be lost, so that Oban is the point to be preferred, there being a coach to Oban and another to Fort-William, diverging at Tyndrum, the passengers by both which are conveyed along Loch Lomond by steam. The space to Dumbarton is traversed sometimes by water, at others by coach, as may suit either company's arrangements. But the railway from Bowling Bay to Loch Lomond will doubtless cause a diversion in the stream of passenger traffic.

19. Dumbarton, a few hundred yards up the river Leven, consists chiefly of a long, crooked, and irregular street, at the upper end of which a bridge of four arches is thrown across, and the road to Loch Lomond proceeds on the west side of the stream. The brick cones of extensive and long-established crown and bottle glass works still form a prominent feature in the appearance of the town; but owing chiefly to the repeal of the duties on glass, the manufacture has been almost given up here. More recent, but already distinguished, ship-building works in all branches, both timber and iron, also characterise the place; but the most distinctive feature of all, is its peculiar and renowned castellated rock, already described in this route. The population in 1841 was 4453. The town was made a royal burgh in 1222 by Alexander II. A remnant of privileges, much more extensive, is still enjoyed in immunity by the burgesses, from dues at the Broomielaw and every other port belonging to Glasgow, with the right of free navigation of the Clyde. In former times the space round the Castle would seem to have been under water at full tide. Besides steamers direct several times a-day to and from Glasgow, and twice a-day to and from Greenock, there are ferry-boats out from Dumbarton at any hour to meet the steamers.

20. The Leven is, in itself, a clear winding stream, known to fame by its connexion with the name of Smollett, whose family residence, Bonhill (now Messrs. Turnbull), is about halfway between the Clyde and Loch Lomond. A monument has been erected to his memory in the village of Renton, a round column on a square die; but it is shamefully neglected, the tablet being left broken and defaced. He was born in the old farm-house of Dalquhurn, taken down several years ago. It stood on the opposite side of the road to the monument, and at

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the south end of the village. On either side of the valley the ground rises in continuous and very gentle slopes, cultivated to the top, with a large quantity of wood interspersed. Amid these peaceful scenes the spirit of trade has found a local habitation—numerous public works for bleaching, dyeing, calico printing, and the manufacture of pyroligneous acid, or white vinegar, being embowered along the river banks, the workmen belonging to which inhabit the considerable villages of Renton and Alexandria on the west, and Bonhill on the east side of the river. Various country seats fill up the fertile and populous valley, as Cordale House (Stirling), Levengrove (Dixon), Strathleven (Ewing), Levenbank (Stuart), &c. Nearing the Loch, Tillichewen Castle (William Campbell, Esq., one of the great Glasgow merchants), a handsome Gothic structure, is passed, and on the opposite side of the valley, Balloch Castle (—Stott) shows itself above the foliage. Omnibuses ply from Dumbarton to the Loch Lomond steamers, and to the Suspension Bridge at Balloch, at the foot of the lake—soon to be superseded by the railway above alluded to, in progress, to Bowling Bay, near Port Dunglas on the Clyde, whence it is eventually to be carried on to Glasgow. The line has been leased by Messrs. G. & T. Burns, the well-known and spirited steam-boat proprietors.

21. Loch Lomond, "the lake full of islands," is unquestionably the pride of Scottish lakes, from its extent, its numerous islands, and the varied character of its scenery. At its lowest extremity, where it insinuates its waters into the vale of Leven, it is for a space quite narrow ; it then expands on either hand, but especially on the east side, and attains in some places a breadth of seven or eight miles, and measuring thirty miles in length. Its banks again approach towards each other, and thence to its termination the lake, winding among the projecting arms of primitive mountains, and slightly altering at intervals its general bearings, alternately contracts and dilates its surface, as it meets and wheels round the impending headlands, among which it at last loses itself in a narrow, prolonged stripe of water. The mountains, in general, gradually increase in height, steepness, and irregularity of surface towards the head of the lake. Those on the west are intersected by successive glens, as Fruin, Finlass, Luss, Douglas, Tarbet, and Sloy. The opposite mountains are more unbroken. Numerous little bays indent the shores, their bounding promontories consisting at the lower end of flat

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alluvial deposits, but towards the upper parts of the lake passing into inclined rocky slopes and abrupt acclivities. At the lower extremity also, there are large tracts of arable ground; while above Luss they occur only at intervals in the mouth of the glens, at the bottom of ravines, or in open spaces created by the partial receding of the hills. Interrupted masses and zones of wood and coppice diversify the face of the hills, oak coppice, mixed with alder, birch, and hazel, predominating. In the broader part, the surface of the water is studded with islands of many sizes and various aspects—flat, sloping, rocky, heathy, cultivated, and wooded, stretching across the lake in three parallel zones. The islands are about thirty in number; and of these, ten are of considerable size, as Inchconagan, which is half a mile long; Inchtavanach and Inchmoan, each three quarters; Inchlonaig, a mile; and Inchmurren (the largest and most southerly) two miles in length. These two last are used as deer parks by the families of Luss and Montrose, and it is still the practice to place insane persons and confirmed drunkards in some of the islands. Several gentlemen's residences, which encompass the lower end of the lake, are surrounded by richly-wooded parks, as Batturich Castle (Findlay) on the east side, on the site of the ancient seat of the Lennox family; and Ross Priory (Mrs. M'Donald Buchanan), frequently visited by Sir Walter Scott; and in the opposite direction, Cameron (Smollett); Bel Retira (Campbell); Arden (Buchanan); and farther up, Rossdhu (Sir James Colquhoun, Bart.), finely situated on a projecting promontory; and Camstradden (also Sir J. Colquhoun). An obelisk may be descried on the south-east, raised to the memory of the celebrated George Buchanan; and the banks of the Endrick are immortalized by the sojourn for many years of Lord Napier of Merchiston, the inventor of logarithms, and the ancestor of the heroes of Acre and Scinde. The whole tract of country on the east side of Loch Lomond and Leven belongs to the Duke of Montrose, whose seat, Buchanan, is situated at some little distance inland, while the west side, from the Fruin water to Glen Falloch, is, with scarce an exception, the property of Sir J. Colquhoun. A few miles above Luss, we have to admire successive mountain slopes, rising one behind another in rugged acclivities, feathered with oak coppice, and irregular rocky precipices shooting up above; the ample sides of Ben Lomond, in particular extending north

and south in lengthened slopes, his lofty head—a compressed peak—aspiring to the clouds; while towards the head of the lake the towering alps of Arroquhar and Glen Falloch, with their bulky forms, abrupt sides, peaked summits, and jagged outlines, terminate the prospect. A couple of steam-boats ply upon Loch Lomond, and, instead of proceeding to Oban or Fort-William, the tourist can be conveyed from Glasgow to the head of the lake and back again the same day, or he may reach Inverary, if not Oban, or the Trosachs, or Aberfoil Inn; the former by the coach or by cars from Tarbet, the two latter from Inversnaid by cart, for those who, coming first, are first accommodated in the vehicles at command; others by ponies, always in readiness, caparisoned with gentlemen's and side saddles; for, though the road be not macadamized, it is now-a-days quite a thoroughfare. Indeed, it must be confessed that the rough cart-track is only fit for little sure-footed highland ponies, which career along as over a bowling-green. At the worst, if disappointed, a walk of five miles brings one to the little steamer on Loch Catrine. If hurried, he will find coaches for Stirling, in waiting, at the further end; and, if much pressed, may reach Edinburgh or Glasgow the same night. It must be observed, that it is proper, if for Loch Catrine, to leave the boat on the way up at Inversnaid, where, as at Tarbet, Rowardennan, and other spots, there are excellent inns.

The most interesting portion of the sail on Loch Lomond, is after rounding the most southerly group of islands at the west, doubling across to Balmaha on the east, then recrossing to Luss on the western shore. Here the spacious bosom of the lake is encircled by islands of various character, presenting middle distances in every direction. The eye courses over an extensive circuit. To the south the ground declines, and the outlines are soft and low, and almost horizontal; and the aspect of nature fertile in the highest degree. The upper boundaries are mountainous, lofty, and exceedingly varied. Not a point of the compass is deficient in interest; the panorama is in every part complete, and in all splendidly beautiful. Viewed in favourable circumstances, be they a hot and sultry sun, a breathless air, and cloudless atmosphere, when every object is resplendent with light, and every leaf pencilled as in a mirror; or a cloudy day, when the overburthened heavens recline their masses on the mountain sides, or the restless vapours flit along their surface,

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and when receding hollow, and projecting cliff, advancing promontory, and retiring bay, or mountain-cleaving ravine, in mingled light and shade, are contrasted in strong relief, it may fairly be questioned whether a Lacustrine expanse, so magnificent, so lovely, and so entirely perfect, is anywhere to be seen.

22. Ben Lomond has perhaps been ascended by a greater number of tourists than any other of our Highland mountains. The general view, however, from its summit cannot compare with that from many others, there being but few openings through the mass of mountains which stretch around. But the bird's-eye view of Loch Lomond itself, as seen from the shoulder of the hill, amply repays the labour of the ascent,—so remarkably lively and diversified is the aspect of its bespangling islands, the strong contrast between the general character of its upper and lower portions, the sinuosities of its shores, the mountains which overhang its waters, or flank its glens, and the rich blush and glittering smile of its waving fields and cultivated spots. From opposite Tarbet, the ascent (here rather steep) generally occupies two hours. At Rowardennan, opposite Inveruglass, five miles further down the loch, it is more tedious, but considerably more easy, and this is the route most commonly followed. The waters of Loch Lomond, like those of Loch Ness, are said to have risen and been much agitated at the time of the great earthquake at Lisbon, and on the occurrence of several slight earthquakes since felt in various parts of Scotland; their depth in the upper division of the lake being also in several places, as in the other lake just mentioned, upwards of a hundred fathoms. It is much less than this towards the lower or eastern end—a farther distinguishing peculiarity of the opposite extremities of Loch Lomond.

23. At Luss, where the Rev. Dr. Stewart, the translator of the Gaelic Bible, officiated, there are slate quarries. Three miles above Tarbet is a small wooded island called Inveruglass, and about two miles further, another called Eilan Vhou, on each of which are the ruins of a stronghold of the family of Macfarlane. In a vault of the latter, an old man of the name, who died not long ago, lived a hermit's life for a considerable number of years. Nearly opposite Inveruglass island, about a mile distant from the lake, are the ruins of Inversnaid fort, on the way to Loch Catrine, an old military station, chiefly designed to keep the clan Gregor in check. At Tarbet the

mountains to the west, at the head of Loch Long, present a fantastic appearance, from which they are known by the name of "The Cobbler and his Wife." The head of Loch Lomond is eight miles from Tarbet; and six miles from the latter place a huge mass of rock will be observed by the road side, in which a small chamber, secured by a door, has been hewn out to serve as a pulpit to the minister of Arroquhar, whose duty it is to preach occasionally in this part of the parish. At the head of the lake is Ardlieu, a good inn. The lake is succeeded, at its upper extremity, for about two miles and a-half, by a level tract of meadow and arable ground. Behind the inn, where hardwood, spruce, and larches occupy the valley, the resemblance to many Swiss scenes is said to be remarkable. Intermediate behind this and Strathfillan is a wide elevated valley, called Glen Falloch, rising in undulating slopes, unadorned save by a few scattered firs, and flanked on the east side by flattened broadly conical mountains, separated by wide corries. From hence, the river Falloch descends through a shelving rocky channel. It forms an obtuse angle with the lake, from the end of which the road, following the course of the river, inclines to the right, and thus looking back, as we ascend to the upper portion of Glen Falloch, the bulky mountains at the head of the lake, separated by deep hollows, are seen disposed in a vast semicircle, and form a most imposing alpine prospect.

24. Glen Fruin, near the southern extremity of Loch Lomond, was the scene of a well-known sanguinary clan conflict (in the commencement of the seventeenth century), which entailed on the clan Gregor a long series of unexampled persecution and blood-thirsty cruelty. Before adverting to the particulars of the affray, which jealous and powerful neighbours succeeded in converting into the source of a legalised warfare of extermination against this unfortunate race, in connexion with it the circumstances may be reviewed of a barbarous incident, which had excited James VI. to very harsh measures against them, and in all probability induced him to make the battle of Glen Fruin the signal for every species of oppression and wrong. The act alluded to was of a nature so revolting as to justify the most rigorous punishment; but it must be considered, that the MacGregors' share in the transaction was but secondary; and even in those barbarous days, the spectacle was rare, of government yielding to those revengeful impulses which among families

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perpetuated to future generations a deadly quarrel as an heir-loom. Some young men—Macdonalds from Glencoe, having been found trespassing on the king's deer-forest of Glen Artney, to the north of Loch Achray, by the under-forester, Drummond of Drummondernoch, had had their ears cropped for their offence. Their kinsmen in retaliation slew Drummond, when, by his majesty's special directions, providing venison for the occasion of Anne of Denmark's arrival in Scotland ; and, having cut off his head, they repaired to the house of his sister, Mrs. Stewart of Ardvorlich, on the side of Loch Earn. Her husband was from home ; and Mrs. Stewart, giving them but a cold reception, laid only bread and cheese before them. While she was out of the room, they placed Drummondernoch's bloody head upon the table, with a piece of the bread and cheese in the mouth. The ghastly sight drove her insane ; and leaving her home, she long wandered in a state of mental aberration through the mountains ; and, to add to the catastrophe, she was soon to become a mother. The murderers hied them from Ardvorlich to the neighbouring church of Balquhidder, where the MacGregors, with their chief, laying their hands on the head of Drummond, swore at the altar to shelter and defend the authors of the deed. This took place about the year 1590. Letters of fire and sword were issued against the MacGregors, and they henceforth underwent the most unrelenting treatment at the hands of their powerful neighbours, who gladly availed themselves of the countenance of Government to harass them to the utmost. One of the most active of their enemies was Sir Humphry Colquhoun of Luss, who directed his persecution against the MacGregors of Balquhidder. With him, Alexander of Glen Strae, at the head of Loch Awe, was particularly anxious that a reconciliation should be effected ; and for that purpose, having solicited a conference, he repaired with two hundred of his clan to a place appointed in the valley of the Leven. On their return homewards from the meeting, they were treacherously assaulted in Glen Fruin, by Luss, with eight hundred of his retainers and neighbours. MacGregor had, however, been apprised of the meditated attack, and his men were on their guard. They fought so obstinately as to come off victors in the contest, slaying two hundred of the name of Colquhoun, besides others of their opponents, and making many prisoners. A tragic incident, of a peculiar nature, added seriously to the

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loss of the discomfited party, and was very probably the chief means of the battle of Glen Fruin being followed by such calamitous consequences to the MacGregors. In the adjoining town of Dumbarton, the principal part of the youth of the Lennox were being educated at the time: curiosity had led about eighty of them, hearing of the meeting of their parents and friends, to repair to the neighbourhood of the scene of action. It was deemed advisable, when hostilities commenced, to confine them in a barn. They all fell into the hands of the MacGregors, who, while they followed up the pursuit, set a guard over them, by whose act, or by some unfortunate mischance, the building was set on fire, and the poor children destroyed. A partial representation of all these occurrences was made to the king (James VI.), and to excite him still more effectually, a procession was got up of sixty widows, whose husbands had been slain on the occasion, mounted on white palfreys, and bearing on long poles upwards of two hundred bloody shirts of the slaughtered Colquhouns. Henceforth the clan Gregor were treated little better than wild beasts. Their lands were confiscated, their very name was proscribed; and, being driven to such extremity, they became notorious for acts of reprisal, and famous as systematic leviers of black-mail. Their services in Montrose's wars first induced some relaxation of the enactments against them, but till a much later period they continued in a peculiar position with the clans around them, and endured, though not with tame submission, along with chastisement, at times deserved, much unjust and unmerited persecution.

25. Proceeding northwards we join the main road from Stirling to Fort-William at Crinlarich, between eight and nine miles from the head of Loch Lomond, and between three and four miles from Tyndrum, the first stage. There Ben More, with its associated hill-tops, form a noble group. We are now in Strathfillan, to the east of which is Glen Dochart, nearly in a line with Loch Tay. At the foot of Ben More lies Loch-an-Our, and further to the east Loch Dochart.

This locality is memorable for one of the most remarkable passages in the life of Robert Bruce. After his defeat at Methven, near Perth, he had endeavoured, with a few hundred men-at-arms, to find his way into the Argyleshire Highlands, but was encountered in Strathfillan by a superior body of highlanders under Allaster Macdougal of Lorn, son-in-law of John, the

Red Comyn, whom Bruce had slain at Dumfries, and consequently his inveterate enemy. The battle field, which lies immediately below Tyndrum, is still called Dalry, or the King's Field. The Bruce was obliged to retreat. In covering the rear of his forces at a narrow pass on the edge of Loch-an-Our, three of Lorn's men, who had by a short cut got ahead of the king, simultaneously assailed him. While one seized the bridle, another laid hold of a leg and stirrup, and the third leapt behind him on the horse's back; but his undaunted presence of mind and uncommon bodily prowess, enabled him, unhurt, to rid himself of this formidable superiority of numbers. It is said that the first had his arm hewn off, and the second was thrown down by the King putting spurs to his horse. Meantime, having extricated himself from the grasp of his third assailant, he threw him to the ground, and cleft his skull, and then too killed his prostrate foe with his sword. "Methinks," said Lorn, addressing one of his followers, "he resembles Golmac-morn protecting his followers from Fingal." It was on this occasion that Bruce

> "Hardly 'scaped with scathe and scorn,
> Left the pledge with conquering Lorn"—

the brooch of his mantle, which unloosed. This precious relic was lost about the middle of the seventeenth century, and after passing through various hands, was, after an interval of nearly 200 years, restored to and preserved in the family of Lorn. This style of brooch, of a circular form, has a raised centre cairngorm or other stone, and half a dozen little cylinders projecting from the outer circlet studded with smaller stones of different hues, and is a favourite and very beautiful shoulder-fastening for the plaid.

26. About half-way between Crinlarich and Tyndrum there is a linn in the river, called the Pool of St. Fillan's, which is to this day at times the scene of the observance of a degrading superstitious rite. At every term day, but chiefly Whitsunday and Lammas, it was and still is occasionally customary to immerse persons insane or of weak intellect at sunset. They are then bound hand and foot, and laid all night in the churchyard of St. Fillan's, within the site of the old chapel. A heavy stick is laid on each side; round these is warped several times a rope passing over the patient's breast, and made fast in a knot,

which, if found loosed in the morning, a recovery may be looked for ; if not, the case is supposed to be desperate.

27. At Tyndrum the roads to Fort-William and Oban diverge. In the hill-face a lead-mine is wrought, in which the proportion of silver is considerable. The stretch of country between Callander and the Western Sea is, for the most part, almost bare of trees, but to Dalmally, at the head of Loch Awe, our way lies through a succession of fine pastoral valleys, flanked by lofty hills, characterized by their pleasing verdant covering, though not distinguished, except occasionally, as at the Pass of Leni and Lochearnhead, by any very marked features. There is a considerable descent to Loch Awe. The inn, churches, and manses of Dalmally (13 miles from Tyndrum) are delightfully nestled among trees at the opening of Glenorchy, which leads to the Black Mount. The churchyard of Dalmally was the burying-place of the Macgregors, many of whose memorial stones are still to the fore.

28. Loch Awe is about thirty miles in length, and varies from one-half to two and a half miles in width. It discharges its water by the river Awe, which issues from a lateral offset of the lake, branching off at no great distance from its eastern extremity, and extending from three to four miles into the valley connecting with Loch Etive, the outlet being thus somewhat peculiarly close by the main feeding streams. Ben Cruachan's gigantic bulk occupies the space bounded by the valley and the portion of the lake to the eastward. Its towering proportions give quite a distinctive character to this end of Loch Awe, different from the remainder of the lake, which is bounded by numerous chains of hills of elongated outline, rising tier above tier, and presenting to the eye a great expanse of mountainous ground, ascending in a gradual inclination. Ben Cruachan is the focus of the lofty ranges which line Glen Strae and Loch Etive. It presents a front of several miles to the river Awe and its parent offset of the lake, while its huge flanks are of corresponding proportions. In all points of view, the aspect of this mountain is peculiarly massive, stately, and imposing. The sloping shores of the lake are well cultivated and wooded, and the streams which fall into it exhibit many pleasing cascades. About twenty-four little islets are scattered over Loch Awe, chiefly towards the eastern extremity, some of them beautifully crowned with dark, nodding pines. On one of these

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islands, Inishail, or the Beautiful Isle, are the ruins of a small nunnery of the Cistertian order ; and on Fraoch Elan (the heather isle), those of a castle, which was granted, in 1267, to Gilbert Macnaughten, by Alexander III. This latter isle was the Hesperides of the country, and is named also from Fraoch, an adventurous lover, who, attempting to gratify the wishes of the fair Mego for the delicious fruit of the isle, encountered and destroyed the serpent by which it was guarded, but fell himself a victim to his temerity.

29. The conjoined waters of two rivers, descending from the respective, nearly parallel, glens, Strae and Orchy, disembogue themselves into Loch Awe at its eastern extremity, and at the base of Ben Cruachan. A spacious tract of meadow ground terminates the lake ; and at the mouth of the river, on a point of land between its waters and a prolonged sweep of the lake, on a slightly protruding rock, stands an imposing pile of ruins, those of Kilchurn Castle, or Caolchairn, the " Castle of the Rock." They compose a square oblong building, with one truncated angle ; and a large square keep, flanked by round, hanging turrets, occupies one corner. The remaining buildings are of varying elevations ; but the whole of each side of an uniform height, thus affording at once variety and simplicity of outline, while the general form is set off by a round tower at each of three angles. All the exterior, and greater part of the interior walls are entire ; and thus the castle, as a whole, forms, from its size, a prominent and striking object. The square tower was built in 1440, on the site of an old castle of the Macgregors, by Sir Colin Campbell, the Black Knight of Rhodes, third son of Duncan, lord of Lochow, and founder of the Breadalbane family,—a man of distinguished character. He acquired by marriage a considerable portion of the estates of the family of Lorn, and the territories of his descendants extend, uninterruptedly, for 100 miles inland from the western sea. One of the best points of view is from the east—the river and meadow-ground in the fore, and the prolonged waters of the lake, studded with wooded islands, the back ground. The drive round the base of Ben Cruachan is singularly fine. The bend of the mountain is skirted with oak woods, above which its giant sides rise with rapid inclination. On the other hand, the water is bounded by a chain of richly wooded eminences, divided into separate islands.

30. The river Awe is bounded by a narrow stripe of flat ground; but the offset of the lake, which precedes, occupies the whole of the bottom of the valley. For about a mile and a half next the river it is not a gunshot across; beyond this gorge it widens considerably to the main expanse. At the narrow part of the opposing hills, the eastern one, the base of Ben Cruachan, rises sufficiently abrupt, while the western ascends from the brink of the water in an acclivity all but perpendicular, strewed below with finely powdered alluvium, mixed with verdure, and terminating at top in a continuous, grim, and furrowed precipice. Where the arm of the lake widens, the western bank declines in a lengthened slope, affording an exquisite position for the residence and grounds of Upper Inverawe, while the opposite one increases in steepness; and the road, amidst the foliage of clambering birch and oak, skirts the dark waters, which lie deep and still beneath. This spot is called the Pass of Awe, or the Brander, and is altogether a piece of magnificent scenery. The prolonged narrow vista of water, hemmed in by impending precipices, with the wooded islets at its termination, form a splendid landscape of singular grandeur, richness, and beauty. At this pass John of Lorn made an unsuccessful attempt to withstand Bruce's advance into his domains, when the tide of fortune having turned, he came to pay off old scores. Lorn unwarily left his enemy an opportunity of attaining a vantage ground, a chosen body of archers, under James of Douglas, Sir Alexander Fraser, and others, having ascended the hill face, which led to the discomfiture of the Argyle men with great slaughter.

The view from the top of Ben Cruachan is, perhaps, as interesting as is to be obtained from any of our Highland mountains, offering a peculiar intermixture of land and water in one section of the panorama, and overlooking a most extensive maze of mountains in the other.

31. Near the mouth of the Awe and the ferry at Bunaw on Loch Etive, an extensive iron furnace has been wrought since the middle of last century, by a Lancashire company, who took long leases of the adjoining woods for the smelting of English iron ore. On the opposite side of the river, Inverawe House, belonging to Campbell of Monzie, lies at the foot of Ben Cruachan, amid sheltering trees. A rude slab has been erected near the little inn of Taynuilt, commemorative of the thrill of pride

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felt even in the remotest localities of our common land in the name of Nelson.

32. Loch Etive is a beautiful navigable inlet of the sea, about fifteen miles in length, divided into two distinct compartments of very different characters at the ferry of Bunaw, Of the western section, framed by hills comparatively low. the shores alternately widen and contract, projecting into frequent low promontories. Wood and heath clothe the high grounds, while their borders are diversified by cultivated fields. The view up the lake is terminated by intersecting chains and the far-spreading sides and towering broadly-peaked summit of Ben Cruachan. But above the ferry, where the waters of the ocean have insinuated themselves amid the recesses of the towering mountains, stretching from Ben Cruachan towards Glencoe, the scenery assumes a character of severe and striking grandeur—a long vista of bare and noble-looking mountains sinking sheer upon a sheet of water, which but for the rise and fall of the tide, we might take for an inland lake. We heartily recommend the tourist to hire a boat to carry him into the heart of this solitude; and if he will, following the road on the north side of Loch Etive for a couple of miles downwards, cross over to Bercaldine House on Loch Creran, and thence proceed to Oban by the ruins of Bercaldine Castle and by Connel Ferry, he will be much gratified by the detour. Occasionally a steamer takes a run from Oban up Loch Etive, and parties ought by all means to avail of any such opportunity.

33. On the north side of Loch Etive, about midway to Connel Ferry, the ruins of Ardchattan Priory, and the high-roofed prior's house, still inhabited, both encased with luxuriant ivy and o'er-canopied by trees, with the rich, ascending, undulating, and wooded parks behind, merit attention. Ardchattan is a name familiar and interesting to all acquainted with Highland annals. The Priory was built by Duncan Macdougal, a relative of the Lord of Lorn, in or about the year 1230, and it was burned during Montrose's wars by Colkitto. Little of it is now left except the entrance gable. Ardchattan belonged to the order of Valliscaulium, a branch of the Benedictines. It was connected with the family of *Ergadia* (Macdougal), as the Abbey of Saddell, in Cantyre, was with that of The Isles. The Prior of Ardchattan's is one of the signatures to the Ragman's Roll in 1296. The church was a simple oblong, 66 feet by 27.

The piscina is of a peculiar form—of three unequal early English arches, over-arched by a round arch, with several mouldings resting on corbels. There are two tombs, one under the north wall—the other under the piscina—the former, of which the stone coffin remains, of *Duncanus et Dugallus*, Priors of the Monastery, and of their father and mother, with the date 1502—the other of *Rodenius Alexandri*, rector of the isle of *Funnani*, in Loch Leven. The first of these has six figures in relief, each under a crocketted canopy; above these two female figures, and between them the image of death, with a toad between the knees; and below two armed figures, and between them an ecclesiastic.* Robert Bruce held a parliament here—one of the last at which the business was conducted in the Gaelic language. (For a short account of the order established here, see that of Beauly Priory, Route IV.)

34. At Connel Ferry, half-way to Oban from Taynuilt, from the narrowness of the passage and a reef of sunken rocks, a very turbulent rapid is occasioned at particular states of the tide, especially at half ebb, when the agitation and noise of the shelving current form a perfect cataract, believed to be the Lora of Ossian.

35. At the entrance of Loch Etive, the very ancient ruins of Dunstaffnage Castle form a prominent and imposing object. They occupy the summit of a perpendicular conglomerate mass, varying from ten to thirty feet in height, near the extremity of a low peninsular flat projecting from the southern shore. The entrance is reached by a narrow outer staircase. The castle is an irregular four-sided structure, with a round tower at each of three angles, the remaining angle being also rounded; but, on the inner area of one of the towers, a square structure of three storeys has been erected, seemingly at no very distant period. Of this last, the roof remains entire, and the flooring is not much decayed: a small house within the walls (of date 1725) is still inhabited. The smallest of the round towers is only nine paces in diameter. The circumference of the whole building is about 400 feet, and the walls from thirty to fifty feet high, and ten feet thick. Dunstaffnage, at least the present edifice, is supposed to have been built about the end of the thirteenth century, though we think it quite as likely to be coeval with

* See a very interesting series of papers—"The Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Argyleshire, in Parts 2 and 3 of Transactions of the Cambridge Camden Society.

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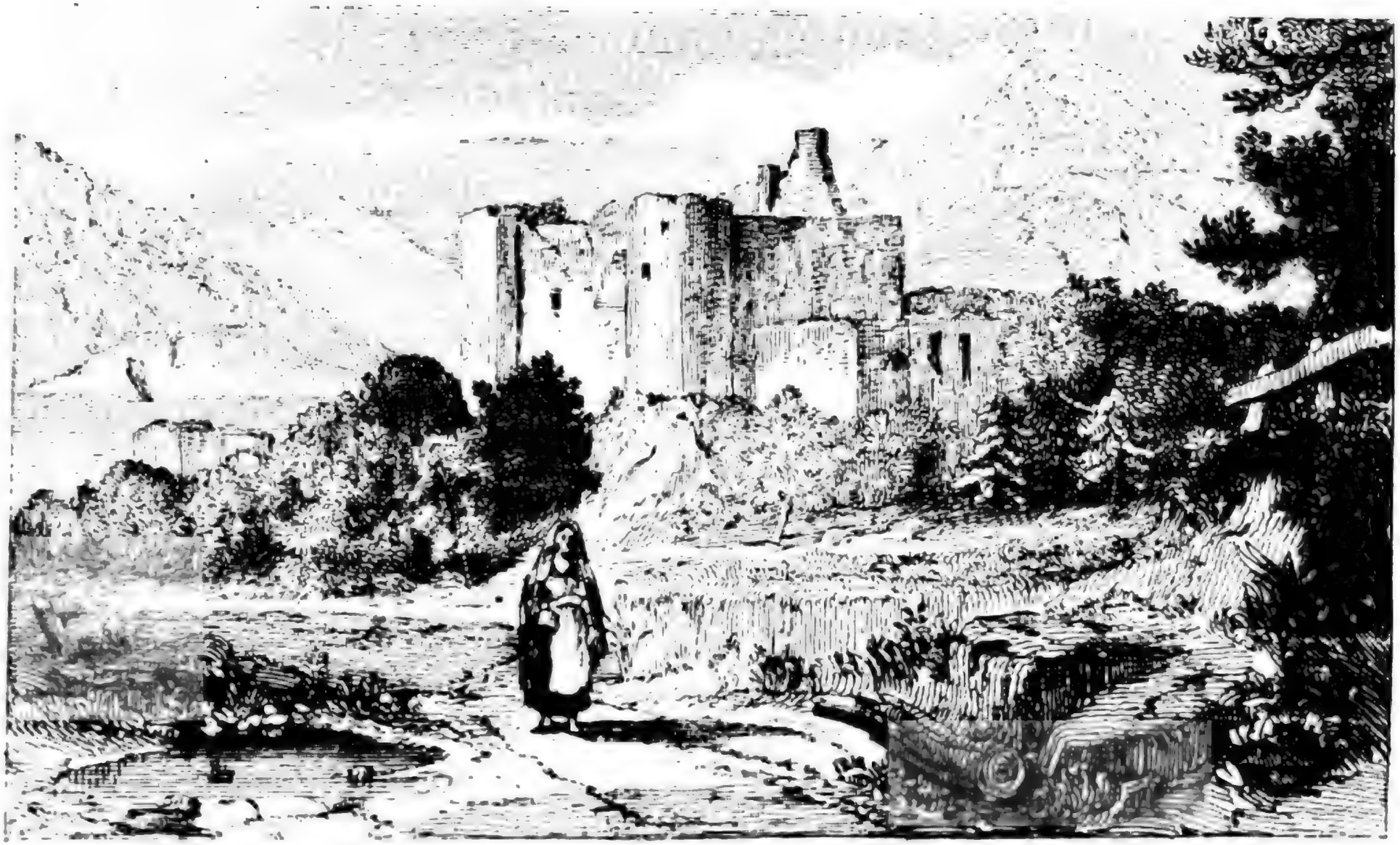

the Lorn family, which branched off from that of the Lords of the Isles in the twelfth century. But Dunstaffnage connects with a much more remote antiquity than this; for the received opinion is that, latterly at least, it was the residence of the Dalriadic race of Scottish kings, who ruled over the Scots from their first location in 503, in Cantyre, till 850, when Kenneth Macalpin united the Scottish and Pictish kingdoms into one, and removed the seat of monarchy to Forteviot. The lordship of Lorn, with the castle and lands of Dunstaffnage, passed, in the fourteenth century, into the hands of the Stewarts of Innermeath, by the marriage of the heiress to John Stewart, commonly called John of Lorn, and in the fifteenth century into those of the Campbells of Glenorchy—M'Dougal of Dunolly becoming chief of the clan. Dunstaffnage was inhabited by the Lords of Argyle till the middle of the fifteenth; and was taken possession of by Bruce after his victory over the Lord of Lorn in the Pass of Awe. There is a highly interesting specimen of an old chapel close by. Its architectural decorations, the most elaborate of any chapel in Argyleshire, seems to belong to the thirteenth century. The original building, which is only twenty-four yards by eight, is defaced by a more modern room erected at the east end, thus obscuring the altar window or windows, which seems to have been very beautiful, of strictly early English form, with banded shafts, and the dog-tooth ornament. A triple tablet runs all round the chapel under the windows.* The spot on which it is erected is distinguished by an echo of singular distinctness.

Our present locality is generally admitted to be the immediate one from which the celebrated stone, standing on which our Scottish monarchs were wont to be crowned, was transported to Scone, and the preservation of which is, or was, a matter of such importance in the eyes of every true Scot; as such, of course, placing undoubting faith in the well-known couplet,—

"Ni fallat fatum, Scoti quocunque locatum,
Invenient lapidem, regnare tenentur ibidem."

As is well known, this precious relic was removed to England by Edward Longshanks, and is safely deposited beneath one of the coronation chairs in the chapel of his namesake the Confessor, in Westminster Abbey. One or two brass guns re-

* See Cambridge Camden Transactions, Part 2.

covered from a vessel of the Spanish Armada, which was lost in the Sound of Mull, are to be seen on the castle wall. The best view of Dunstaffnage is from the Oban road, where it is seen to rest on the water, beyond which the bay and wooded promontory of Ardnamucknish, backed by the hills of Morven.

Opposite the Castle of Dunstaffnage, on the further side of Loch Etive, will be observed a magnificent set of cliffs, called the " Cragan Righ," or King's Rocks, formed, as the geologist will remark, of an extremely hard and singular conglomerate, composed of a great variety of primitive and trap rocks ; and about 400 yards in advance, and to the north-west of these cliffs, close on the pebbly beach of the fine circular Bay of Ardnamucknish, is the little double-topped rocky eminence, on which and the contiguous plain, conjecture has for a long time back been pleased to fix as the site of Berigonium, the ancient Pictish capital, which probably early waned before the advancing fortunes of the Scottish adventurers ; as St. Columba is said to have gone to the mouth of the Ness (now Inverness) to convert Brudœus, king of the Picts, towards the close of the sixth century. It is near the shore, and only two miles distant from Connel Ferry, and, by visiting it, the traveller will be gratified at least by the inspection of a very good and accessible vitrified fort. Both the flattened summits are girt with a vitrified wall, strongly defined, and in some parts exposed, to a height of eight feet. This rock is vulgarly called *Dun Mac Snichan*. Either area is an irregular oblong, measuring respectively 160 and 100 paces circumference. They are separated by an interval of 120 paces. The rock is barely accessible, except at one end, where it is defended by a second wall, and at another spot about the middle of one side, where a broad gap affords a steep approach. The adjoining cliff is called *Dun Bhail an Righ*, " the hill of the king's town." From the foot of the cliffs a straight raised way, said to have been at one time paved, and called Straidmharagaid, " the market street," proceeds along the top, and at a few yards' distance from the edge of the steep green bank which lines the beach leading to Dun Mac Snichan. It is about ten feet broad, and, where best defined, of a like height. Some years ago a stone coffin, an urn, and a sandal, were found in the ground behind. A hollow log of wood, turned up at an early period, was readily construed, by the sticklers for the regal associations fondly attached to

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this spot, into a remnant of the water-pipes of the city. At the base of the cliff is a small burying-ground and ancient cell or chapel, from which the "street" or paved way communicated most likely with the sea-shore opposite Dunstaffnage, or with the vitrified site, and which, therefore, was, in all likelihood, only a *procession* road during Christian times to the religious sanctuary. The distinction is farther claimed for this place of being the Selma of Ossian. "Selma" signifies "beautiful view," in which respect the identity may readily be admitted. As we have elsewhere observed, the range under the eye from this spot is alike extensive and diversified. The ruins of Bercaldine Castle are at no great distance. The view here is also fine. Intermediate is the house of Lochnell, General Campbell.

37. Oban comes suddenly in sight when close upon it, quite a bird's eye view presenting itself from the heights above of the somewhat bowl-shaped road-stead, with its small complement of shipping and boats, and the respectable looking range of white-washed houses fronting the harbour.

If the reader will now suppose himself again at Tyndrum, where, as already mentioned, the Oban and Fort-William roads diverge, we will take up the thread of description at that point of the route as from

GLASGOW TO FORT-WILLIAM BY LOCH LOMOND.

38. The stage of eighteen miles from Tyndrum to King's House, is bleak and sterile. Half way the shores of Loch Tollie or Tulla are rather picturesque, being garnished with some fine specimens of Scotch pine. Its margin forms a pleasant site for a shooting lodge of the Marquis of Breadalbane, whose adjacent forest on the Black Mount is distinguished for its stock of deer. There is here also a small public house, Inverouran. Between and King's House, a solitary inn of moderate pretensions, standing in the midst of a bleak and extensive moor, the road makes a prolonged and tiresome ascent across the shoulder of the Black Mount; the view from which has a peculiarity in its way, ranging over the moor of Rannoch, a vast expanse of heath intermixed with rocks and moss-water lochs—the largest waste of the kind in Scotland.

39. Intermediate between King's House and Loch Leven lies Glencoe, of historical notoriety, and no less known to fame for its own intrinsic features. It bends in the centre. The lower

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division near Loch Leven is covered with rich verdure, and the course of the river marked by alder and birch trees spreading up the face of the lower slopes of the mountains, which terminate in naked and furrowed acclivities, of a singular intermixture of colours. The character of the other division of the glen is that of unmingled wildness and grandeur. On the north side porphyritic ranges rise into a continuous series of high, naked, sharp-edged, and serrated precipices. The mountains which form the southern boundary are more rounded, yet loftier and more bold, and they project unequally into the glen, gashed with many a grizzly furrow. From these inaccessible fastnesses

numerous torrents descend into the plain ; the streams are so rapid, and carry so much stony matter along with them, that they cannot be conducted by drains under the road, which thus possesses many inequalities, and is frequently rendered almost impassable by the quantities of debris lodged upon it. A small lake, Treachtan, occupies the lower part of this, the upper portion ; above which the glen ascends with a rapid inclination to its extremity. The impending gloomy precipices of this wild glen are of a nature to strike the most unreflecting mind with awe ; their ragged outlines and bold fronts, seamed with torrents and shattered by storms, form a scene not only wonderful

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but terrific. The rugged and desolate grandeur of Glencoe and its peculiar intensity, compressed close around the spectator, is acknowledged by all, and by none more than those who have had opportunities of seeing many of the most remarkable scenes on the Continent of Europe. We have been struck by the unqualified admiration of Glencoe expressed by parties familiar with Switzerland, more especially by foreigners, who seemed peculiarly alive to the impression of its complete desolation and unrelieved austerity of character.

In the mountains of Glencoe there are some very dangerous passes, the terrors of which few, but the shepherds who are familiarised to them, would willingly encounter. The mountains on the north side of the glen terminate so sharply as, at one particular spot, for a space of some yards, to resemble exactly the roof of a house. To surmount this critical obstacle, requires no little nerve and resolution, for the only way to advance is to sit astride, and crawl cautiously alongst the narrow ridge ; yet many fox-hunters do not hesitate to perform this trying adventure, burdened with both dog and gun. Nor is this the whole of the exploit ; for a little further on they have to leap a height of about ten feet from the top of the precipice, to where the slope becomes so gentle as to make this practicable by care and dexterity. A pass of a different nature, and more avoided, because safety depends less on skill than accident, is in the face of the Pap of Glencoe. It is a very steep gully, the sides of which are covered with loose stones, which any slight disturbance brings tumbling down in great quantities. Here a shepherd lost his life some years ago ; yet many recollect an old woman who, to a very advanced age, almost daily followed her small flock of goats up this dreaded hollow, unconcernedly engaged in spinning with her old-fashioned roke and distaff. Glencoe possesses a few farm-houses, as Invercoe, Auchnacone, Auchteriachtan, and some huts in the lower portion of the glen, and one solitary farm-house at the side of Loch Treachtan.

40. The well-known massacre of Glencoe, which cast so signal a stain on King William's reign, renders the glen a locality of no little interest in an historical point of view. This tragic incident seems to have had its immediate rise in the disappointment felt by the Secretary of State, Sir John Dalrymple, master of Stair, and the Earl of Breadalbane, at the

failure of a project to organize the Highland clans into a force for the support of Government. In the negotiations for the purpose, too, the earl had been provoked by Mac Ian, chief of the Macdonalds of Glencoe, who insinuated that he had appropriated to his own use part of a sum of money entrusted to him for distribution among the chiefs. The Macdonalds altogether stood in the way of the attempted arrangements, and those of Glencoe were ever looked upon with an evil eye by their neighbours the Campbells,—a disposition heightened by the Glencoe men's share in the defeat of the latter by Montrose at Inverlochy. On the unsuccessful issue of the project of conciliation, Government issued, in 1691, a proclamation, enjoining the submission of all the chiefs before the 1st of January 1692, by taking a formal oath of allegiance. All the chieftains had complied except Mac Ian of Glencoe; and he, too, a few days before the expiry of the appointed period, repaired to Fort-William, and tendered his oath to Governor Hill, who, however, was not the proper authority, and he found himself necessitated to proceed to Inverary to the sheriff of Argyle, Sir Colin Campbell of Ardkinglass. A storm of snow prevented his arrival within the prescribed time; but the oath was administered, and the certificate forwarded, with an explanatory letter. On the 11th of the month, directions to proceed to the extremity of fire and sword, with all who might have neglected the proclamation, were signed by King William; and on the 16th he issued a second set of orders, but containing, like the first, a reserved power to extend the indemnity to such as might have delayed to comply for some little time beyond that originally specified, yet expressly excepting the Macdonalds of Glencoe, who were directed to be extirpated. The Sheriff of Argyle's letter was not produced to the council, and the certificate was cancelled. Instructions of the most savage nature were committed by Stair to Governor Hill; and a detachment of the Earl of Argyle's regiment was, under a plausible pretext, quartered in the glen, under the command of Captain Campbell of Glenlyon, whose niece was married to one of Mac Ian's sons. The soldiery were most hospitably entertained for a fortnight by their intended victims, whom, on a winter's morning in February, they proceeded to murder in cold blood. Another party, under the command of Major Duncanson, was to have occupied the eastern pass; but having been prevented by the snow from arriving in due time, an op-

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portunity of escape was presented to the majority of the miserable inhabitants, of whom, consequently, the number killed was only thirty-eight, but who were murdered under circumstances of most wanton barbarity. It is related of the principal actor in this tragedy—Campbell of Glenlyon—that having, some years afterwards, to superintend a military execution of a soldier, for whom a reprieve had arrived, he, at the time for producing it, inadvertently instead dropped his handkerchief, the fatal signal to fire. Horror-struck, he exclaimed, that the curse of Glencoe hung about him, and in deep despondency immediately retired from the service.

41. We now reach Loch Leven, a long but narrow arm of the sea, extending in a straight line between the counties of Inverness and Argyle. It contracts twice to a very narrow width: at Ballachulish Ferry, and three or four miles beyond, at another strait, called the Dog's Ferry, above which it continues for about three miles. Dr. Macculloch, with truth, remarks, that, "from its mouth to its further extremity, Loch Leven is one continued succession of landscapes." Amongst the singular and lofty porphyritic mountains on the south side, which form the entrance to Glencoe, the eye is peculiarly attracted by the Pap of Glencoe—a huge conical mountain overhanging the loch. The naked surface, abrupt acclivities, and varied colours of the porphyritic masses which line the glen, form a striking contrast to the green sloping shores of the loch.

In the basin between Ballachulish and the Dog's Ferry are several islets. One of these, called St. Mungo's Isle, has long been used as a burying-place. It consists of two knolls, one of which is appropriated to the district of Glencoe, and the other to the people of Lochaber. On the latter are the ruins of a small Roman Catholic chapel, in which the body of Mac Ian, the Laird of Glencoe above alluded to, was originally interred. Some of his descendants, unwilling that the bones of their ancestor should repose anywhere but among those of their own clansmen, had them removed, not many years ago, to the Glencoe portion of the isle. They were of great size. As he was a remarkably powerful man, his assassins were careful to pour a simultaneous volley on him as he lay asleep, and all the balls lodged between his shoulders. He was called Mhic Ian Vohr, "the son of John the Great," whence several of those who escaped the massacre took the name of Johnson.

At the upper end of Loch Leven are two objects which are frequently visited by strangers—the Serpent River, and the Falls of Kinloch More—both on the north side of the loch. The Serpent River near its mouth falls over a cascade about twenty feet high, and is then hurried through a series of low natural arches, forming a dark and almost subterranean channel. A vertical hole in the rock (communicating with the river) admits the spectator close to the base of the fall; the sheeted water of the cascade throws an uncertain light over the rocky cavern; and the successive openings of the roof give us partial glimpses of the inky stream, threading its way through the intricacies of the tortuous labyrinth. The Falls of Kinloch More are, as the name implies, at the head of the loch; their height appears about 100 feet, but they are formed merely by a small burn, tumbling over the face of a perpendicular range of cliffs, the birch trees at the base of which conceal the lowest part of the fall, and thus lessen the effect which its great height—its sole remarkable feature—would otherwise certainly produce. The trees below and along the brow of the precipice, however, bestow an airiness and beauty on the spot, which, with the general grandeur of the loch, and the tunnelled course of the Serpent River, amply repay the trouble of a few hours' excursion on the water.

42. There is a good public-house or inn on either side of Ballachulish Ferry, sixteen miles distant from King's House. The view from the north side is worthy of special mention. The celebrated slate quarries, which are about two miles from the ferry, give employment to about 200 people. Near them there is a neat Episcopal chapel, half a mile beyond "the sounding Cona," which the road crossing, leads along the shores of the loch to the ferry. The adjacent district of Appin has always been a stronghold of Episcopacy. It is worthy of remark that the number of communicants at the Ballachulish chapel has at times been as large as 300, being probably more than in any provincial Episcopal congregation north of the Tweed.

From Ballachulish to Fort-William, a distance of fourteen miles, the road runs chiefly along the eastern shore of Loch Eil. At Coran Ferry, which connects Loch Linnhe with Loch Eil, the sides of the firth approach very near each other. The opposite shore is here laid out into plantations and corn-fields: further down is seen the house of Ardgour, surrounded with

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woods, parks, and meadow grounds; and the sloping hills are elsewhere occasionally adorned with plantations of birch, and cottages, most of them humble enough, but surrounded with clumps of old trees.

Having thus disposed of the routes to Oban by the Crinan Canal and Loch Lomond, and also by the latter to Fort-William, it becomes our business to follow up these by some account of the remaining lines.

FROM GLASGOW TO OBAN BY INVERARY.

43. Of these there is a considerable choice. We need merely allude to the access by steam through the Kyles of Bute and Loch Fyne. The route by Tarbet on Loch Lomond may, from the head of Loch Long, be taken in connection with that by the latter, which, with the direction by Loch Goil Head, are the most frequented, though Loch Eck is also deserving of notice, and the Gareloch perhaps still more so; but by these the tourist must look more to private means of conveyance.

44. Steamers are constantly plying to the head of Loch Long, Loch Goil Head, and Gareloch Head. Loch Long, as its name imports, is a lengthened indentation or offset of the waters of the Firth of Clyde, which possesses much character. Its mountains send down into the loch a series of inclined arms or ridges of irregular and indented outlines, closing in towards the centre of the vista. Their lower portions are covered with coppice or brought into culture, while above they exhibit a pleasing mixture of grey rock, purpling heath, and verdant pasture. One of the mountains at the head of Loch Long possesses a remarkably bold and fantastic outline, which has obtained for it the designation of "The Cobbler." Persons inclined to hazardous adventure are not unfrequently induced to try their skill and nerve in surmounting its dizzy precipices; but few have succeeded in gaining the utmost summit. The glen communicating between the inn of Arroquhar at Loch Long Head, and Tarbet on Loch Lomond side (a distance of a mile and a-half), is open, the bottom cultivated, the sides of moderate inclination, and heathy. During the memorable invasion of Scotland by Haco, King of Norway, in 1263, a squadron of sixty ships, commanded by Magnus, King of Man, sailed up Loch Long. Dragging their boats across the isthmus connecting it with

Loch Lomond, his followers laid waste the shores of this latter lake and its islands, in which numbers of the neighbouring inhabitants had sought, as they imagined, a secure refuge.

45. Glencroe, which with Glen Lochan and Glen Kinglass in succession, communicates with the head of Loch Fyne, resembles Glencoe, but softened down; and with these just named, is much and deservedly admired. It is a winding valley, with an occasional narrow stripe of cultivated ground at the bottom, flanked by rapid slopes broken by protruding masses of rock, and rising into precipitous acclivities, the hills split into separate summits of varied form, and exhibiting a jagged serrated outline. Passing into the small elevated glen, called Glenlochan, the mountains are found disposed above a short acclivity, in a range of dark perpendicular rock, mingled with scarce less perpendicular grassy slopes, ascending to a considerable height, and terminating in a sharp, rugged, and serrated outline. About eight or nine miles from Arroquhar Inn, at the top of the ascent, a well-known stone by the way-side invites the weary traveller to "Rest and be Thankful," words inscribed on it, with the date 1748, by the soldiers who formed the road. It also bears the latter inscription—"Repaired by the 23d Regiment, 1768." An easy descent down Glen Kinglass, a fine pastoral valley, with hills rising from the edge of its stream in a steep verdant slope, and also shooting at top into distinct but elongated roundish, though somewhat rocky summits, conducts us to the inn of Cairndow, with Ardkinglass House adjoining, near the head of Loch Fyne.

46. In general character Loch Fyne possesses no particular interest. Along the upper part of the loch, which is very narrow, the hills rise steeply, and immediately from the water: above the lower, occasional zone of coppice and cultivation, they are covered with a very rich verdure, but their outline and surface are rather monotonous, but still of somewhat conical character. Below Inverary the coasts are yet more tame, and devoid of any striking feature, but a good deal wooded, and for several miles contiguous to that point the hills are completely covered with trees. Much in Highland scenery of all others, as every one knows, is dependent on the weather, and we have witnessed as fine effects as could be wished on Loch Fyne, looking down upon it in a sunshiny day; or, again, in a thunder-storm, not so close at hand as to be unpleasant, but the muttered thunder

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rolling deliberately along the mountain sides, and their summits partially enveloped in broken clouds.

47. Four miles above Inverary, on the same side, Dunedera Castle, a square tower, still inhabited, the property and former residence of M'Naughton of M'Naughton, stands perched upon a projecting piece of terraced ground. About ten miles from the head of Loch Fyne, a slight indentation of some extent occurs along the western shore: at the lower end, Glen Aray, and at the other extremity, Glen Shira, a more flat and cultivated valley, cut through the hills at nearly right angles to the shores of the loch. A bridge crosses the stream issuing from each, at their respective mouths. The town of Inverary is built at the lower end of the elongated indentation or bay, looking partly across it, and partly fronting the loch. On a level space in front of Glen Aray, on the south bank of the river, and slightly elevated above the sea, stands the castle. The hills separating Glens Aray and Shira terminate in the steep escarpments of Duniquoich, which shoots up a conical head above the contiguous range, presenting an ample precipitous front to the town and castle, yet completely shrouded with varied hardwood, and forming a vertical screen of peculiar richness. From the town a wide avenue of truly magnificent beech trees proceeds in a straight line parallel with the shore; and turning to the right, the drive conducts to the base of the skirting hills, and, amid a profusion of stately timber, leads backwards towards the castle, approaching which it leads through a double row of full-grown lime trees. Other noble trees are scattered round the immediate precincts of the ducal pile; and, altogether, the extent of the woods, despite of many and sore thinnings, with the beauteous scenery of Loch Fyne, with its hilly shores, justly entitle Inverary to a proud place in the list of distinguished localities in Scotland. We rejoice to see the little valley of Essachosan, a sequestered spot, through whose dense oaks even a meridian beam could not, and even now can scarcely penetrate, speedily regaining much of its wonted character.

48. The modern seat of M'Callum More, inferior to the old castle, which it represents, is a somewhat sombre-looking embattled structure, of two storeys and a sunk floor, flanked with round, overtopping towers, and surmounted by a square, winged pavilion. The rooms are fitted up with tapestried hangings and furniture, panellings and ceilings gaily painted

with fruit and flowers, and rather showy than stately. In the saloon about 150 stand of arms, used by the Campbells at the battle of Culloden, are arranged on either hand, and above the doorway fronting the entrance; several of the rooms are hung with much-admired tapestry, and others are tastefully decorated with well-executed designs.

The town of Inverary consists of about sixty houses, the greater number of which are large and commodious; and the inhabitants amount, by last census, to 1052. A row of houses fronts the bay, from which the principal street diverges at right angles; and in the centre of the latter stands the church, a new structure, surmounted by a small spire, sedulously armed with a lightning conductor, a precaution suggested by the destruction of the former edifice a few years ago by the electric fluid. Opposite the church there is a neat building by the waterside, containing the court-house and other public offices. There is a very commodious and well conducted hotel. In a garden beside the church there is a small obelisk, commemorative of the execution, in this place, in 1685, of several gentlemen of the name of Campbell, among the last individuals who suffered for their unflinching opposition to Popery; and near the quay, a beautiful stone cross from Iona has been set up.

The staple commodity of Inverary is herrings; those of Loch Fyne being celebrated for their unmatched excellence. The delicious consistency of the Loch Fyne herring fresh out of the water must be practically tested to be duly appreciated. They taste really as of a peculiar variety of the fish, otherwise there must be something remarkable in the fishing ground. They sell for about three half-pence a piece in the Glasgow market. Three or four, and at times so many as 800 boats are to be seen in pursuit of this fish immediately opposite the town. It is highly interesting to watch the boats silently taking up their positions towards nightfall; or to look upon the tiny fleet darkling in the silvery moonbeams.

TO INVERARY BY THE GARELOCH, LOCH GOIL, LOCH ECK.

It may be best to introduce here, the few words we have to offer on the routes to Inverary by the Gareloch, Loch Goil, and Loch Eck, before concluding the rest of the way to Oban.

49. Both the Gareloch and Loch Eck, of which the first is

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a salt water inlet, the other a fresh water lake, are very peculiar in character. The Gareloch, intermediate between Dumbarton and Loch Long, transports one in imagination to southern climes, where we picture numerous villas as a natural adjunct of a beautiful sheet of water. Here, with much softness of natural features, we have congregated, at least on one side, all the way from Helensburgh, a large and regular sea-bathing village, to Gareloch Head, one long and uninterrupted series of villas of varied architecture—not a few of them sumptuous in their pretensions, many exhibiting much taste, and the effect not only of the whole landscape certainly extremely attractive, but highly indicative of the modern wealth of St. Mungo's ancient city. These cluster at points, as Ardincaple, The Row, and Shandon, into closer groups. About the Duke of Argyle's handsome seat of Roseneath—of Italian design—there is some fine timber, and there is great luxuriance in the vegetation of the whole locality. Two silver firs, of very large dimensions, a little off the road, and not far from the quay, are worthy of special notice, and also an avenue of aged yew trees. A walk of a couple of miles from the very neat and pretty sheltered village of Gareloch Head, which is within about ten miles of the inn and hamlet of Arroquhar, at the head of Loch Long, brings us to the summit of the intervening range, and overlooking Loch Long at its junction with Loch Goil—the square massive walls of Carrick Castle keeping sullen ward upon the further shore.

50. This sombre pile—a single high, square, or rather oblong keep, with an irregularly-shaped high wall, enclosing a portion of the projecting rock on which it stands, by the side of Loch Goil—and a previous scene of a different complexion, where the house of Ardintenny (Earl of Dunmore) and the pretty adjoining village lie in a sunny recess, encircled by wooded hills, and opening upon a closely-embowered ravine, are the most prominent individual objects on the sail up Loch Goil. As already noticed, the approach by the Firth of Clyde to Loch Long and Loch Goil is exceedingly attractive; the extended panorama characterized by great variety and strong contrasts; and by spaciousness, without such remoteness as at all to injure the effect of any one of the boundaries. The steamers for Loch Long and Loch Goil, and for Kilmun, come down the Firth as far as Gourock, before reaching across. Loch Goil is

distinguished, like Loch Long, by high, rough, and boldly-outlined mountains, with steep green acclivities, having a considerable dash of rocky spaces interspersed. At Loch Goilhead, Drumsainy House is surrounded by fine woods. From the village of Loch Goilhead, where there is a good inn, a coach starts, on the arrival of the steamer, for St. Catharine's Ferry, on Loch Fyne, about eight miles distant, and opposite Inverary, crossing a high ridge through a fine pastoral valley, lined by lofty hills clothed with brilliant verdure, and known by the startling cognomen of "Hell's Glen." The ferry is plied by a small steamer.

51. Numerous and cheerful white-washed villas, and sea-bathing quarters, extend along the opposite shores of Holy Loch, on the Clyde, which is deeply embayed amidst mountains of considerable elevation. A square burial vault at Kilmun—so called from St. Mun—forms the resting-place of the bones of the family of Argyle. The villas which bedeck the shore extend, with little interruption, all round the loch. At the western termination of the bay, another cluster of houses commences another series, stretching in a single row along the coast, and almost connecting with the village of Dunoon; a bright and lively shore line thus lying in immediate contact with heathery and unreclaimed sloping braes. A small portion of the ruins remains, at Kilmun, of a collegiate church founded in the middle of the fifteenth century.

52. Loch Eck, flanked by the mountain chains within whose embrace the waters of Holy Loch insinuate themselves, possesses as strongly-marked and picturesque boundaries as any of our Highland lakes. It is eight or nine miles in length, but generally not many hundred yards wide, encompassed by abrupt hills of mica slate, rising sheer from the water, roughened with many perpendicular faces of rock, and carpeted between with the brightest verdure; of considerable still moderate height, separated by deep ravines, and of indented and bold outlines. The margin of the lake is not unadorned with trees. But for the white walls of a few respectable houses Loch Eck wears all the secluded air of a loch in the remote Highlands, while the boldly-defined forms, yet verdant character of its hills, constitute it a most pleasing link between the truly alpine and more properly lowland lakes. It resembles, indeed, in many respects, the lakes of the north of England, closely embosomed in their own compacted mountains, verdant, closely cropped, yet of unex-

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pectedly steep and bold acclivity, and with outlines more independent and remarkable than those of the Scottish mountains, yet with margents green and wooded shores incomparably sweet. About half-way between Kilmun and Strachur, on Loch Fyne, a road strikes past Whistlefield inn, across a rather steep hill to Ardintenny. From Loch Eck, the road to Inverary conducts through a cultivated valley, and passing the grounds of Strachur House, and by the sheltered inn of that name, about half-a-mile from the shore.

INVERARY TO OBAN.

53. The road from Inverary to Oban proceeds up Glen Aray, passing through a part of the ducal policies. As we ascend, the sides of the glen are found rising immediately from the brink of the small river Aray, and disposing themselves into numerous irregular eminences, all enveloped with luxuriant woods, chiefly of oak and birch The ascending valley of trees—the clambering arrangement of the series of eminences composing the sides of the glen—the diversity and undulations of surface—the varied density of the forest, and its variegated foliage—the magnitude of the timber, and its unequal age and height—the whole, enlivened and embellished by a pleasing stream, combine to form exquisite woodland scenery.

54. The descent to Loch Awe is accomplished by a series of most rapid inclines, setting at defiance all notion of easy gradients. We reach the low ground at Clady, where, besides an inn, there is a small collection of black houses. Here, one road to the right leads, by Dalmally, (sixteen miles from Inverary,) round the head of Loch Awe, while another, in the opposite direction, conducts to the ferry of Port Sonachan, three miles from Clady, crossing at which the distance is shortened by about six miles. The former, from Dalmally, has been already described. At Port Sonachan, the shores of the lake are found beautifully diversified with wood and cultivated ground, and embellished by several respectable-looking residences. The landscapes, from the successive lateral outlines, present everywhere a variety of distances. The upland opening towards Loch Etive is bare and cheerless—Ben Cruachan and the adjoining ranges, however, preserving their majestic character, while we descend through a pleasing little glen—Glen Nant—of some-

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what peculiar character; the sides, rising for some miles immediately from the burn, being covered, with scarce a break of rock throughout, with a thick young coppice of hazel and dwarf birch.

OBAN TO INVERNESS.

55. We know of nothing to surpass the sail from Oban to Fort-William. Bordered on both sides by lofty mountains, there is yet a striking contrast on either hand. On the one, the Morven and associated ranges line the waters in one continuous rampart, cleft, it is true, by an occasional ravine-like opening, and several of the individual mountains are distinctive by their fine forms. On the other, a series of far indented inlets of the sea, though but partially visible from Loch Linnhe, indicate a disposition of the mountain masses ranging inland from the coast, thus exhibiting themselves to the eye of the spectator at varying distances and in multiform shape, outline, and grouping, while, the broken character of the shore and its diversified surface, greatly heighten the effect. A beautiful green is the prevailing livery; but in the revelations made of mountain summits of great elevation, rising into peaks or circled with precipitous corries, as, for instance, the hoary guardians of Glencoe, the bare rock contrasts, according to its respective ingredients, its varying more sombre or neutral hues and tints, with the warmer colouring of the pasture, heath, and foliage. Objects of great interest, though different in kind, occupy the nearer ground, in the numerous strongholds in ruins, attesting the importance which the surrounding districts held at former periods of our country's history, when the Lords of the Isles and their Scandinavian predecessors ruled paramount amid their remote fastnesses. Of these Dunolly Castle, at the entrance of the Bay of Oban; Dunstaffnage, at the opening of Loch Etive; the vitrified rock, the reputed site of Berigonium the Pictish capital, on the opposite coast of the Bay of Ardnamucknish; Duart Castle, the stronghold of Maclean, on the coast of Mull; Shuna, on the island of that name; Eilean Stalker, a fortalice of the Stewarts of Appin, on a little islet off the Appin shore, are the most prominent. Many gentlemen's seats, surrounded by pleasure-grounds beautified with full-grown trees, adorn this romantic coast. Lochnell (General Campbell) lies within the wooded promontory of Ardnamucknish, which extends from the

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opening of Loch Creran to that of Loch Etive. The house of Airds is situated at the mouth of Loch Creran. Ardshiel (Stewart) presents itself at the entrance of Loch Leven ; and intermediate between them lies Appin House (Downie). The Appin coast is diversified with numerous rocky knolls and eminences, which, with the lower mountain slopes, are girt with rich woods of oak and birch. One of the finest points is the opening of Loch Leven, where the aspect of the towering Alps of Glencoe, and of the bright emerald acclivities near hand, is really imposing ; and the pre-eminent bulk of Ben Nevis, as we advance, attracts attention, and is an object one looks out for with some interest, as being the monarch of British mountains, now holding a sort of divided sway with Ben Mhac Dhui in the heights of Aberdeenshire.

Loch Linnhe, as it spreads out towards the ocean, where the widening vista is closed by the brown heathy mountains of Mull, encompasses with its waters a few large and several smaller islands. Of these, the principal is

56. Lismore, a very fertile island, about ten miles long and two broad, in which is carried on a considerable trade in limestone, of which it is entirely composed. At Killichearen, on the east side of the island, is a small establishment, till lately made use of for the education of Roman Catholic priests, and called the College of Lismore, which was under the charge of a bishop. It consists of a small chapel, with a two-storeyed dwelling-house on each side, and protected from the winds by a few ash trees. This seminary has, of late years, been abandoned, and removed to Aberdeenshire. The number of students was generally nine or ten. None of the inhabitants of the island are Romanists. This island was anciently a possession of the Bishops of Argyle and of the Isles, who were thence frequently styled *Episcopi Lismorenses*. On the west side of the island the remains of their palace of Auchindown still exists in the shell of a large square structure with lofty walls, which enclose a court on one side of the building ; the whole being rather securely placed on a rock in front of a terraced space with a precipitous seaward front.

57. Fort-William and the contiguous village of Maryburgh stand at a bend of Loch Eil, as the extremity of Loch Linnhe is called, which here suddenly turns its course to the north-west. The fort was erected in King William's reign. It is an

irregular work, mounted with 12 twelve-pounders, and defended by a ditch, glacis, and ravelin. It contains a bomb-proof magazine, and the barracks are intended to accommodate 2 field-officers, 2 captains, 4 subalterns, and 96 privates. We apprehend its worth as a protection to shipping, its only conceivable use now a days, to be very small, if of any account at all. Like Fort-Augustus, it was designed as a garrison for troops, to keep the Highlanders in check when their loyalty was a divided one, and with the occasion their serviceableness has passed away. A mere handful of men now compose the garrison. Maryburgh consists of a long straight street, close to the edge of the water, with several short intersecting lanes, and contains about 1500 inhabitants; two respectable inns, the Caledonian and George; an Episcopal and Roman Catholic chapel, and Missionary Presbyterian and a Free church; two branch banks; and here, too, one of the Sheriff-substitutes of the county resides and holds his courts, his jurisdiction also extending over a portion of the adjoining county of Argyle. A monument has recently been erected in honour of Maclachan of Aberdeen, a distinguished Gaelic scholar and great linguist, and compiler of the Gaelic Dictionary, who was a native of the district.

58. The most prominent feature of this neighbourhood is Ben Nevis, "Beinmamh Bhathais," the mountain with its summit in the clouds—the cloud-kissing hill, long reputed, and still having fair pretensions, to be the highest mountain in Great Britain. It rises abruptly from the plain to the east of Fort-William: its height is 4370 feet, and its circumference at the base is supposed to exceed 24 miles. The circuit or outline of the mountain all round is well defined, for it is almost completely isolated by two yawning ravines, and separated from the adjoining lofty mountain ranges, and projects boldly in front of them. The base of Ben Nevis is almost washed by the sea; none of its vast proportions are lost to the eye, and hence its appearance is peculiarly imposing; while the sky outline, which is not peaked, but plain and tabular (deviating but little from a right line), admirably harmonises with its general massiveness and majesty. Its northern front consists of two grand distinct ascent or terraces, the level top of the lowest of which, at an elevation of about 1700 feet, contains a wild tarn or mountain lake. The outer acclivities of this, the lower part of the mountain, are very steep, although covered with a short

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grassy sward, intermixed with heath ; but at the lake this vegetable clothing ceases. Here a strange scene of desolation presents itself. The upper and higher portion seems to meet us, as a new mountain, shooting up its black porphyritic rocks through the granitic masses, along which we have hitherto made our way, and, where not absolutely precipitous, its surface is strewed with angular fragments of stone of various sizes, wedged together, and forming a singularly rugged covering, among which we look in vain for any symptoms of vegetable life, except where round some pellucid spring the rare little alpine plants, such as *Epilobium alpinum*, *Silene acaulis*, *Saxifraga stellaris* and *nivalis*, which live only in such deserts wild, are to be found putting forth their modest blossoms, amid the encircling moss. The eagle sallying from his eyry may greet the approach of the wanderer, or the mournful plover with plaintive note salute his ear ; but for those birds of the mountain, the rocky wilderness were lifeless and silent as the grave ; its only tenants the lightnings and the mists of heaven, and its language the voice of the storm.

On the north-eastern side of Ben Nevis, a broad and tremendous precipice, commencing at the summit, reaches down to a depth of not less than 1500 feet. The furrows and chasms in the black beetling rocks of this precipice are constantly filled with snow, and the brow of the mountain is also encircled with an icy diadem. From the summit, the view, as will readily be conceived, is remarkably grand and extensive. The astonished spectator, who has been so fortunate as to reach it free of its frequent robe of clouds, descries, towards the south and east, the blue mountains of Ben Cruachan, Ben Lomond, Ben More, Ben Lawers, Schehallion, and Cairngorm, with a thousand intermediate and less aspiring peaks. On the other sides, his eye wanders from the distant hills of Caithness to the remote and scarcely discernible mountains of the outer Hebrides. Numerous glens and valleys lie to the south, but they are hidden from observation ; and to the utmost verge of the horizon, countless mountains of all sizes and shapes, heathy, rocky, and tempest-worn, extend before the eye, as if the waves of a troubled ocean had, in their commotion, been turned into stone. Looking towards the other points of the compass, we meet with more variety ; the silvery waters of Loch Eil, Loch Linnhe, and Loch Lochy, of the Atlantic and German Oceans, rendering the

vast prospect more cheerful and brilliant. It may safely be said that every point of the horizon is 120 miles removed from the spectator.

The ascent of Ben Nevis usually occupies three hours and a-half from the base of the mountain, and the descent rather more than half that time. Some travellers go up at night, that they may enjoy the sunrise: by doing so, they run a great risk of being disappointed, as in the morning the view is generally obscured by mists, and only occasional glimpses can be caught of the glorious prospect, which is generally clearest from mid-day to six o'clock in the evening. It is imprudent for a stranger to undertake the ascent without a guide, and one can always be procured about Fort-William for seven or eight shillings. The inexperienced traveller, also, may be the better of being reminded to carry with him some wine or spirits (which, however, should be used with caution), wherewith to qualify the spring water, which is fortunately abundant, and to which he will be fain to have frequent recourse, ere he attain the object of his labours. It is customary to ascend the hill on the northern side. By making a circuit to the eastward, beyond Inverlochy Castle, the traveller can proceed as far as the lake on the back of a Highland pony.

Ben Nevis, in its geological structure, very clearly exhibits the successive elevation of mountain masses by volcanic agency. It consists of three great zones of rock, the fundamental one being gneiss and mica slate, through which an enormous irruption of granite, forming now the lower half of the mountain, bursts forth. At a subsequent period, a new summit of black compact felspar rocks (the principal member being a porphyritic greenstone), was projected from below through the centre of the granite, shooting up beyond it at a high angle, and now constituting, as similar rocks do elsewhere, the loftiest rocky pinnacle in the country. The older masses are, in many places, traversed by veins of the superior rocks.

In Glen Nevis, some miles from Fort-William, is a rocking-stone of considerable size, not unworthy the attention of the curious; and beyond it the vitrified fort of Dun Jardil.

59. Between Loch Lochy, the westernmost of that chain of lakes which occupy the Great Glen and the line of the Caledonian Canal, and the sea at Loch Eil, there is a broad moss, which, with the adjoining district, forms the territory of Loch-

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aber, a name familiar to Scottish ears. On the north side of this flat the canal has been formed, and on the south side runs the river Lochy, issuing from Loch Lochy, with the united waters of the river Spean, which descends from Loch Laggan.

An object of interest near Fort-William is the old castle of Inverlochy, about two miles distant from the latter place. It stands between the road and the river Lochy, and consists of four large round towers, connected by high walls or screens, forming an extensive quadrangle. The towers are about thirty feet in height, and overtop the walls by eight or ten feet. The western and southern are nearly entire; and the former, which is called Cuming's Tower, is considerably larger than the rest. Its inside diameter is eight paces, and the thickness of its walls about ten feet. A moat, eight paces wide, encircled the walls at the distance of ten paces. The principal entrance is on the south-east side; and directly opposite it is a sallyport; each had a guard-room immediately above, and the former was well defended by iron gates, and a heavy portcullis. The towers consisted of three storeys, and besides loop or arrow-holes, each room is provided with one or two windows.

Tradition invests Inverlochy with a most imposing antiquity, making it the residence of the Pictish kings, when they came to enjoy deer-stalking on the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy! Here, also, Achaius is said to have signed a league with Charlemagne. The present building is most naturally to be ascribed to the age of Edward I., being of nearly the same character as the castles erected by him in North Wales. If not built and garrisoned by his troops, there seems little reason to doubt that it owes its origin to the powerful family of Cuming, and that the English monarch's engineers had helped to plan and construct it, as the style of its defences and masonry are different from the usual rude residences of Highland chieftains.

A handsome suspension bridge has now been erected across the river Lochy, near the old castle, superseding the ferry, and thus an important acquisition to the district.

60. Beneath the frowning towers of Inverlochy the Duke of Argyle was defeated by the Marquis of Montrose, in the year 1645. Montrose and his army had just retired from a six weeks' inroad into the Argyle country; on which occasion, having taken his enemy completely by surprise, "he burnt every house, except the impregnable castles; slew, drove off, ate up, or other-

wise destroyed, every four-footed beast, and utterly spoiled everything in the shape of grain, goods, and furniture." On his way towards Inverness at the hill of Kilchumin (near Fort-Augustus) on Loch Ness side, he was overtaken by the unexpected news of Argyle with a force double his own, which had been much reduced by the temporary absence of his men to deposit their booty, advancing in pursuit, and retaliating by laying waste Lochaber. Judging correctly that another body would be ready to the eastward to act in concert with the Campbells, Montrose, with that enterprise and promptitude for which he was so eminently distinguished, resolved to anticipate the movements of his enemies, and to hurl back the tide of war. He led his men up the course of the Tarff (the line of the old Corryarick road) to the sources of the Spey, and thence into Glen Roy, and so, by pathless wilds covered with a deep snow, with great expedition to the foot of Ben Nevis. This circuitous route was chosen for secrecy's sake. It was impossible to make the attack the night of their arrival. Before dawn the Campbells were not unaware of the presence of a hostile body; but deeming them merely some party of the surrounding peasantry, and little dreaming of the close vicinity of the redoubted Montrose, slight attention was paid to the aggressing host, to whom every opportunity was left of assailing their adversaries to advantage. The onset was made when the first rays of the sun shot athwart Ben Nevis; and the astonished Campbells hurriedly drew up, dismayed by the intelligence of the great Montrose himself being their opponent. Their chief, excusing himself from the effects of a late accident, retired on board his galley. A large body of his men had been posted on the further side of the Lochy; and the main army, drawn up in the level ground about the castle, were dispirited by being made to abide the shock of their enemies' impetuous charge. There was scarce a show of resistance made. They were driven back in confusion on the river and shore of Loch Eil, and slaughtered or drowned in crowds. There fell no fewer than 1500 men, a full half of their whole number, including sixteen gentlemen and officers of note; while, on Montrose's side, there were only three private men killed, and one gentleman wounded. Argyle, ordering his sails to be set, left his men to their fate. This sanguinary battle, if it can be so called, was fought on Sunday the 2d of February, 1645.

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Montrose is said to have knighted on the field of battle John Hay of Lochloy, whose tomb is still to be seen in St. Mary's aisle in Elgin cathedral. This is the latest instance of the honour of knighthood being conferred by a subject; and the circumstance is commemorated in the pages of our great novelist, where the doughty Sir Dugald Dalgetty is made to win his spurs in this engagement.

Inverlochy was also the scene of a severe conflict in an earlier age. Alexander, Lord of the Isles, having been imprisoned in Tantallon Castle, by King James I., for burning the town of Inverness, and other offences against the peace of the country, Donald Balloch of Islay, a cousin of Alexander's, to insult the royal authority, laid waste Lochaber with fire and sword. Alexander Earl of Mar, and Allan Earl of Caithness, being sent to defend the country, encountered the islesmen at Inverlochy. The latter nobleman was slain, and his party completely defeated. But Donald's star was not long triumphant; for, the king advancing in person to crush the rebellion, he was obliged to flee to Ireland, whence his head was sent over to his majesty.

61. Having landed the passengers, whose destination may happen to be Fort-William, with such as may prefer remaining there overnight and rejoining in the morning—conveyances running across betimes—the steamer proceeds to the mouth of the canal at Bannavie. A very handsome and commodious new hotel has been recently erected by the proprietor, Sir Duncan Cameron of Fassfern, ample enough abundantly to do away with all cause of grumbling at want of room, ofttimes, heretofore, occasioned by the over crowded state of the former inn, and with all feeling of disquietude in the contemplation of the possible risk of having to seek for uncertain repose on chairs or some other uneasy substitute for a comfortable bed. This inn has been leased by the steam-boat proprietors, Messrs. Burns—a guarantee for its being well conducted.

Ben Nevis and its adjoining mountain masses, with Glen Nevis, shew to peculiar advantage from the vicinity of the night quarters, and the tourist has the advantage of witnessing their varied aspect under the descending mantle of evening, and when lighted up with the first rays of early dawn.

62. Near the church of Kilmaillie, close by the adjoining village of Corpach, an obelisk has been erected, the inscription

on which, from the gifted pen of Sir Walter Scott, the reader will allow to be worthy of insertion :—

"Sacred to the Memory
of
COLONEL JOHN CAMERON,
Eldest son of Sir Ewen Cameron of Fassifern, Baronet,
Whose mortal remains,
Transported from the field of Glory, where he died,
Rest here with those of his forefathers.
During twenty years of active military service,
With a spirit which knew no fear and shunned no danger,
He accompanied or led,
In Marches, Sieges, or Battles,
The gallant 92d Regiment of Scottish Highlanders,
Always to Fame, almost always to victory;
And at length,
In the forty-second year of his age,
Upon the memorable 16th day of June, 1815,
Perished in the command of that corps,
While actively contributing to achieve the important victory
of
Waterloo,
Which gave peace to Europe.
Thus ending his military career
With the long and eventful struggle in which
His services had been so often distinguished;
He died lamented,
By that unrivalled General,
To whose long train of success and victory
He had so much contributed;
By his country
From which he had repeatedly received marks
Of the highest consideration;
and
By his Sovereign,
Who graced his sorrowing family with those marks of honour,
Which could not follow to this place
Him whose merit they were designed to commemorate.
Reader,
Call not his fate untimely,
Who, thus honoured and lamented,
Closed a life of Fame by a death of Glory."

63. The great Glen of Scotland is lined throughout by parallel chains of hills of considerable but not great elevation, broken through on the north side by a series of lateral valleys, as the openings to Glenfinnan and Loch Arkaig, Glengarry, Glenmoriston, and Urquhart, which severally exhibit some of the most beautiful portions of scenery to be met within the Highlands, and in each of different character. On the opposite

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side Glen Spean, at the western end, descends from Loch Laggan to the foot of Ben Nevis; but otherwise, this range is unbroken, except by occasional ravines, sending down their streams with more or less of headlong impetuosity. There is comparatively little remarkable in the way of outline; but the long vistas, though perhaps too much akin, are very fine, and the whole scenery highly attractive, and at different points the side scenes are exquisitely and picturesquely beautiful.

64. A series of eight locks at Bannavie, called Neptune's Staircase, raise the canal at once to the level of Loch Lochy. Partly to avoid the detention of passing these, a different steamer performs the rest of the voyage to Inverness.

The distance to Loch Lochy is eight miles. Within about three miles of the sea, on the banks of the river Lochy, part of the walls are still standing of a very old building called Tor Castle, the ancient seat of the chief of the Mackintoshes, or Clan Chattan, who at one time possessed this part of the country, and still retain some property in the locality. In the opinion of those who are zealous to make the most of antiquarian data, Tor Castle has been given forth as the residence of Banquo, Thane of Lochaber; and there are certainly no such conclusive materials for gainsaying this position, as Eadie Ochiltree overwhelmed Monkbarns withal.

65. About eight miles from Fort-William, on the road to Inverness, which keeps the south side of the valley, a picturesque-looking bridge, appropriately called *Highbridge*, is thrown across the deep and rocky channel of the Spean; but the road now makes a detour to avoid the steep approaches to this old structure, crossing at Spean Bridge, where there is a small inn. High bridge was built by General Wade, and marks the spot where hostilities first commenced in the rebellion of 1745. Reports had become current in the country of Prince Charles having landed, and the governor of Fort-Augustus deemed it expedient to reinforce the garrison of Fort-William. Two companies of the first regiment of foot were accordingly sent, under the command of Captain (afterwards General) John Scott. As they approached Highbridge their ears were saluted with the warlike strains of a bagpipe, and presently several armed Highlanders were observed moving to and fro on the opposite side of the bridge. The captain, aware of the critical state of the country, and apprehensive that a strong force had assembled

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to oppose his progress, judged it most prudent to avoid an open rupture, and began to retrace his steps to the eastward. The military were allowed to proceed unmolested, till they had reached the loch; but then a dropping fire was opened upon them from the steep acclivities above, where their adversaries were securely sheltered, and their numbers concealed. Having reached the east end of Loch Lochy, Captain Scott, suspecting a hostile reception from some Highlanders he observed on the hills to the south of Loch Oich, determined to proceed by the north side of that lake, and endeavour to possess himself of the castle of Invergarry. They had not marched far, in pursuance of this intention, when a body of the Macdonells of Glengarry were observed advancing against them. Their pursuers, greatly increased in numbers, now came up; and, as resistance could only lead to unavailing bloodshed, Captain Scott and his party surrendered themselves prisoners, and were immediately conducted to Lochiel's house at Achnacarry. That chief afterwards carried them with him to Glenfinnan, where the clans were appointed to rendezvous, to be offered to his Prince, as the first-fruits of their arms, and a happy presage of the success of their cause.

66. Loch Lochy is ten miles in length; its breadth at the east end is three quarters of a mile, and gradually increases towards the opposite extremity, where, at the Bay of Arkaig, it becomes nearly double that width; the depth is in some places from seventy to eighty fathoms. The mountains on the south side of this and the adjoining lake are continuous and unbroken beyond Lowbridge; the opposite hills are torn by numerous gullies, but the pasture on both sides is still of a rich green, strongly contrasting with the brown and purple tints which the prevalence of heather will be found to give to the eastern portion of the Great Glen; and the vista is very fine. The shores of this lake are steep, and the hills but scantily wooded. Shortly after entering on the lake, the house of Achnacarry, the paternal mansion of Lochiel, the chief of the Clan Cameron, will be observed on the north, embosomed amidst trees in the centre of a pretty wide and exceedingly beautiful valley, which connects with Loch Arkaig, another large sheet of water. Here lived, at least in the old structure, burnt by the Duke of Cumberland, the "undaunted Lochiel" of the Forty-five, and his still more celebrated predecessor, Sir Ewen Cameron,

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that doughty and chivalrous warrior who long set even the arms of the iron Cromwell at defiance, having been the last Scotsman who succumbed to his authority, and who again signalized his loyalty at Killiecrankie. It may interest our lady-readers to learn, that Sir Ewen had twelve daughters, all of whom were married to landed proprietors, and most of them to heads of Clans, or of branches of Clans. A wide circle of Highland families may thus claim kindred with Lochiel. In these days, the fair sex were of comparatively small account, when the wealth of a chief corresponded with the number of his bearded followers. This gallant old chief, however, on the birth of the twelfth daughter being announced as of a lady, prophetically expressed himself, "Yes, a *real* lady, and every one of them will bring me a lad!" On the opposite side of Loch Lochy, the house of Glenfinlay (Andrew Belford) forms a handsome and conspicuous object. Letterfinlay is an unpretending public-house, by the loch side on the southern shore, three miles from the east end of Loch Lochy. At Lowbridge (a collection of huts, four miles distant from, and to the west of this inn, and situate at the entrance of Glen Gloy), the southern range of hills extending from the Moray Firth may be said to terminate. Glen Gloy is nearly parallel with Glen Roy (celebrated for its parallel roads), which lies south of it, and which joins Glen Spean, lying still farther to the south, and extending from Loch Laggan, in the direction of Fort-William. The mouth of Glen Spean is occupied by a vast alluvial deposit, disposed in broken sterile eminences, beyond which Ben Nevis is still seen raising his huge bulk to the skies, terminating a range of lofty porphyritic mountains which proceed from the further side of Loch Laggan.

67. Kinloch Lochy was, in the year 1544, the scene of a most bloody battle between the Frasers, headed by their chief, Hugh, fifth Lord Lovat, and the Macdonalds of Clanranald. The captain of Clanranald dying, left a natural son, who, being grown up, took advantage of the minority of the heir, and seized his possessions on the west coast. The cause of the latter was espoused by the Frasers, who assembled to recover his estates for him. On their return from the west, they found the forces of the Clanranald had mustered at Loch Lochy, to hazard the issue of a battle, which was maintained till nightfall with the most desperate determination, and nearly equal slaughter on both sides. Lord Lovat,

with his eldest son, and eighty gentlemen of the clan, fell in this memorable engagement, which is commonly known by the name of *Blaranlien*, from the Frasers having stripped to their shirts. It was fought on the 15th of July 1544. The heir of Clanranald, called Donald Gaulta, the Lowlander, was taken prisoner, and carried to a public-house at Laggan by a party of Macdonalds. He had killed, in the course of the day, a very powerful man, the pride and champion of Clanranald, and was himself very severely wounded in the head. The Macdonalds, in their cups, commenced boasting of their several exploits, when Donald Gaulta, from his bed of sickness, remarked, that if he were as well as he had been in the morning, he would rather, single-handed, encounter all who were then in the room, than have to engage again in mortal combat with the brave man who had that day fallen beneath his sword. This taunt so irritated the Macdonalds, that they directed the person who was to act as surgeon, when dressing the wound of their rightful chief, to thrust the needle into his brain. He did so accordingly ; but ere the spirit winged its flight, Donald had time to plunge his dirk into the heart of the faithless leech.

68. Next in succession to Loch Lochy, and intermediate between it and Loch Ness, comes a small lake called Loch Oich, whose surface is the summit level between the two seas. The distance between the latter and Loch Lochy is about two miles. In the space between these is a small village called Laggan, principally occupied by families of the name of Kennedy, descendants of a sept originally sent here by government to civilize the Highlanders, but whose own character needed equal amendment, for ultimately they were found to be among the most troublesome and untractable of the Caterans. A plain square enclosure, north of the canal, forms the resting-place of the late Glengarry, a personage of celebrity in his day, as the most genuine incarnation of the Celtic characteristics of a bygone age. He was the head of one of the lines of descendants of Ronald, eldest son of John of Isla, the lineal heir of the mighty Somerled. As such, and alleging his to be the oldest of these lines, he regarded himself as the true representative of the Lords of the Isles, instead of Lord Macdonald of Sleat, whose predecessors sprung from Donald of the Isles, son of John of Isla by his second marriage with Margaret, daughter of Robert II., had enjoyed the title, while a recognized one. With

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an ardent temperament pervaded by an all-powerful apprehension of his high descent, and an inborn yearning after the spirit and appropriate qualities of his ancestry, his life was an incongruity to modern modes, and wore in these degenerate days much of an air of extravaganza. Still his strongly rooted feelings and startling peculiarities commanded no little general interest, while in many a Highland bosom he stood enshrined as the model of all to which the memory of Highlanders tenaciously clings ; and his death left a blank which there was none to replace. It is perhaps not incorrect to say that Glengarry's enthusiastic passion for every thing Highland may have been a chief means in sustaining and nourishing those predilections for Highland costume, music, dancing, and games, which are now so much a fashion.

69. Loch Oich is rather more than three miles and a half in length, and varies in breadth from one-fourth to one-sixteenth of a mile. It is a sweet sheet of water, encircled by verdant banks, with some cultivated grounds at the mouth of Glengarry ; and it is farther embellished by one or two diminutive islets, decked with trees. The range of hills on the south side is high, steep, and unbroken, rising immediately from the loch, but covered with green pasture, and having a few birches scattered over its surface ; from the north side the Glengarry mountains shoot up in a succession of high and bold peaks, very elegantly and regularly shaped ; one of them, from its uniform outline, being called Glengarry's Bowling Green. From their base, the valley and river from which they take their general name are seen stretching to the westward, and beautifully fringed with birch woods. Near the river's mouth, and close to the loch, are the ruins of the ancient castle of Invergarry, the seat of the chief of the branch of clan Coila, called *Macdonell*, and a modern mansion, now occupied by Lord Ward, who has recently become proprietor, by purchase, of the larger portion of the Glengarry estates. The latter is a plain, narrow, high-roofed house ; but the castle is worthy of more notice. It stands on a rock, which is the gathering place of the clan Macdonell, whose war-cry, now the motto of their chief, is, " Craggan an phithick," " the rock of the raven." The castle consists of an oblong square of five storeys, containing the principal rooms, and having an addition on one side, in which are the gateway, staircase, guard-rooms, &c. ; the former is rounded at the east end into a sort of tower ; from the corner of the other a turret shoots up,

which commands an extensive view of the surrounding country. It was burnt, after the rebellion of 1745, by the Duke of Cumberland ; but the greater part of the walls are still standing. The landscape, looking back westwards as the boat passes along to the eastern extremity, is one of the most perfect pictures in the whole course of the voyage, and the scenery of Loch Oich is said to resemble very strikingly that of some parts of the Rhine.

70. A monument will be observed by the loch side, before we reach the castle, erected by the late Glengarry, over "the well of the seven heads." The monument consists of a group of seven human heads carved in stone, placed on the top of a small pyramid, which rests on a square die. The following inscription is engraved on this singular structure in four different languages—English, Gaelic, French, and Latin :—

As a Memorial
Of the ample and summary
Vengeance
Which, in the swift Course of
Feudal Justice,
Inflicted by the Orders of
The Lord M'Donell and Aross,
Overtook the Perpetrators of
The foul Murder
of
The Keppoch Family,
a branch of
The Powerful and Illustrious
Clan,
Of which his Lordship was
The Chief.
This Monument is erected by
Colonel Macdonell, of Glengarry,
XVII. Mac-Mic-Alaister,
His Successor and Representative,
In the Year of our Lord,
1812.
The Heads of the Seven Murderers
Were presented at the foot of
The Noble Chief,
In Glengarry Castle,
After having been washed
In this Spring :
And ever since that event,
Which took place early in
The Sixteenth Century,
It has been known by
The name of
" Tobar-nan-ceann,"
or,
The *Well* of the *Heads*.

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The murder alluded to was that of the two sons of Keppoch, who had been sent to be educated in France. During their absence their father died, leaving his affairs under the management of seven brothers, his kinsmen. The prolonged stay of the young chief had so habituated his cousins to the pleasures of power, that they murdered him and his brother on the night of there unwelcome return. The old family bard was the means of bringing the deserved punishment on the murderers. After fruitless endeavours to engage various Highland chiefs in the object he had devoted himself to, and repeated applications to Glengarry's ancestor according to the above inscription, but, in the opinion of many versant in traditionary lore, to Macdonald of the Isles, he at length prevailed on one or other of them to furnish a body of men, with whose aid having achieved his purpose, the attached senachie glutted his thirst for revenge by mutilating the corpses of the ruthless assassins. A little way up Glengarry, on the north side of the loch, to which side the road follows, and south-east side of the river, the traveller will find a comfortable inn, equidistant (*i. e.*, about seven and a half miles) from Letterfinlay, on the banks of Loch Lochy, and Fort-Augustus. The drive up the glen to Loch Garry is well worthy of a spare hour.

71. The centre of the glen, from Fort-Augustus to Loch Oich, is occupied by low, rocky, and heathy hills, on the south side of which the road proceeds, and on the other the canal. About a mile from the fort the road passes a small loch called Culachy, at the end of which it is joined by the southern Loch Ness and the Corryarick roads. The distance from Loch Oich to Loch Ness is five miles and a half. At the east end of the former lake stands a bare slated house, called Aberchalder, where Prince Charles' forces gathered before crossing Corryarick for the low country. Nothing remarkable occurs on the line of the canal, except the vitrified fort of Torduin, which communicated with Dun Jardil on Loch Ness, and thence with the eastern coast.

72. Fort-Augustus is situated at the south-western extremity of Loch Ness ; it stands by the edge of the lake, on an alluvial bank, between a mountain stream, called the Tarff, and the river Oich ; the canal, which cuts through the glacis at the fort, intervening between it and the latter. The fort was built shortly after the rebellion of 1715. In form it is square, with

four bastions at the corners, on which can be mounted twelve six-pounders. It is defended by a ditch, covert way, and glacis. In the ditch is a battery, on which can be mounted four six-pounders. The barracks are constructed for one field officer, four captains, twelve subalterns, and 280 rank and file. The magazine, storehouses, &c., are at present empty, and the guns have been removed to Fort-George; but a few soldiers are generally stationed in the garrison.

73. Loch Ness is between twenty-three and twenty-four miles in length; it varies in breadth from three quarters of a mile to a mile and a quarter, the latter being the average width. Its sides sink with a very rapid declivity, as it is frequently from forty to fifty fathoms deep within that distance from the shore; and in some places, towards the middle, the depth has been found to be 130 fathoms. In consequence of this great depth, the loch never freezes, and the river which flows from it has so short a run, that it reaches the sea before it has been cooled to the congealing point. The slope of the sides of the mountain-chains is equally steep above as beneath the surface of the lake. Rugged, heathy, and rocky, with their faces in many places furrowed by the winter storms, they are, notwithstanding, in great part, especially on the northern bank, luxuriantly clad with a profuse variety of forest-trees; birch, oak, ash, elm, and aspen, and a thick underwood of hazel, sloe, and holly; spangled in summer by innumerable wild roses, and resting on a carpeting of purpled heath and verdant bracken. The mountain ranges average between 1200 and 1500 feet in height, and are, in general, of equal elevation on the opposite sides of the lake, except where Mealfourvounie, about midway on the north side, rears his dome-like head to the height of upwards of 3000 feet. The mountains are continuous and undivided, save by the valley of Urquhart and Glenmoriston on the north, and by two ravines about the middle of the south side, and near each other, down which the Farikaig and Foyers pour their streams into the great reservoir. A few arable tracts, at wide intervals, gladden the eye amid the woods which cover the sides of the hills; and on the north, the openings of Glens Urquhart and Moriston display to view large cultivated fields and substantial houses; while in the spaces between these valleys the steep acclivities have, in a few places, been turned to account by the labours of industrious croftsmen. Along the whole of the

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southern side of the lake hardly a house is to be seen from Dores, at the east end, to Fort-Augustus, except towards the centre, where the white walls of Boleskine and the General's Hut make a conspicuous appearance high up on the hill face; while the house of Foyers below, at the mouth of the river of that name, looks out from amidst luxuriant woods of birch.

Loch Ness occupies the whole breadth of the valley, except towards its eastern extremity, where its waters are confined to a narrow channel on the north side.

The appearance of this lake from the water, though highly beautiful, is monotonous; the mountains are deficient in striking outline, and appear, if not somewhat insignificant, at least wanting in force of character, from the extent of space which the eye embraces; and their fine woods have little better effect than a clothing of sward. Notwithstanding, there are some very fine frontlets, as Strone Muichk, and Craig Ian, at Invermoriston; the face of Suchumin, at Fort-Augustus; the Red Rock at Aultsigh; and the Black Rock at Inverfarikaig. We would recommend the stranger to travel along the *banks* of Loch Ness. Of the two roads, that on the north side is preferable; the elevations of the roads are more various, and the windings more numerous; and from these the lake is at almost each successive step presented under a new aspect. At times, from some treeless swelling of the hill side, or from the top of some abrupt precipice, we overlook the whole bright expanse of its waters; whilst advancing but a few paces, we find it concealed from sight, or, at intervals, perceive it glittering and glancing through the dense foliage of o'erhanging trees.

74. Invermoriston, the first place of call after leaving Fort-Augustus, lies in a deep recess at the mouth of Glenmoriston, closely girt by an amphitheatre of hills, with the mansion of the proprietor (Murray Grant) fronting the lake. About three miles further down, the deep burn course of Aultsigh presents a magnificent precipice, bearing on its rocky ledges a host of scattered pines, which on the more inclined surface to the lake give place to a rich mantle of birch and hard woods.

75. The celebrated Falls of Foyers occur on the river of that name about twelve miles from Fort-Augustus. The steamer lies to, off the mouth of the river, at a beautiful wood-embowered alluvial bank, from whose foliage the house of Foyers peers forth, to give the passengers an opportunity of

visiting the falls, which are two in number, the nearest about a mile from the lake, and the other about a quarter of a mile further.

The river Foyers, after passing across the highly elevated and chiefly moorland and open district of country lying to the south of Loch Ness, on its reaching the hills which skirt that lake, enters a deep and narrow ravine, at the commencement of which it is precipitated over a ledge of rock, about thirty feet in height, forming the upper fall. To view it to the best advantage (and the traveller should, if he have command of his time, first visit this upper fall, to which the public road and a bridge across the river will lead him), it is necessary to descend to the channel of the river below the bridge. From this position, the appearance of the headlong and tumultuous mass of waters is very imposing; while the high and perpendicular rocks between which the river pours its noisy and troubled flood, and the aerial single-arched bridge which has been thrown across the chasm, have a highly picturesque effect. A pathway will be found immediately beside the bridge, and on the west side of the stream, which conducts to the proper point of view. It is, however, somewhat difficult to reach this position; and the generality of visitors content themselves with the view from the bridge or the rocks above the fall. Below the fall, the channel of the river is deep and rocky, and shelves rapidly down towards the lake: the mountain sides are clothed with luxuriant woods of birch; and the river, interrupted in its course by numerous masses of rock, is lashed into foam, and hurries impetuously forward for about a quarter of a mile. It then encounters a second abrupt descent, and is dashed through a narrow gap, over a height of about ninety feet, into a deep and spacious linn, surrounded with lofty, precipitous rocks. From one side of this gulf, a high ledge of rock, projecting in front of the fall, obstructs all sight of it from any point along the margin of the river. As we approach this greater cataract, the ground is felt to tremble from the shock of the falling water; and the ear is stunned with its sullen and ceaseless roar. A winding footpath strikes off from the public road, at the commencement of a parapet wall, and leads down to a green bank, on the point of the projecting barrier, directly opposite to and on a level with the middle of the fall. Here in security the eye can scan the terrors of the troubled gulf beneath, the whole

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extent of the fall, and of the encircling and surmounting rocks, partially covered with a rank mossy vegetation, forced into life by the volumes of vapour which float around, their summits waving with birches, pencilled on the sky. The accompaniments of wood and rock, and mountain slope, are always attractive; but when the river is swollen with rain, the scene assumes the features of sublimity, and the spectator, immersed in an agitated and drenching mist, regards it with mingled feelings of awe and admiration. The living spirit of the waters wakens, with thundering call, the echoes of the solitude: every other sound is drowned, and all nature seems attentive to the voice of the falling element; and the mighty caldron is filled with shifting masses of spray, frequently illumined with the bright and lambent tints of a rainbow.

Of the many descriptions extant of this fall, we have always felt the following lines the most correct and graphic:

> Among the heathy hills and ragged woods
> The roaring Foyers pours his mossy floods;
> Till full he dashes on the rocky mounds,
> Where, thro' a shapeless breach, his stream resounds,
> As high in air the bursting torrents flow,
> As deep-recoiling surges foam below,
> Prone down the rock the whitening sheet descends,
> And viewless Echo's ear, astonish'd, rends.
> Dim seen, through rising mists and ceaseless show'rs
> The hoary cavern wide surrounding low'rs.
> Still thro' the gap the struggling river toils,
> And still below the horrid cauldron boils.
>
> BURNS.

About an hour's space is allowed to passengers desirous to visit the falls, or rather the lower fall, as this does not suffice for both.

From the rocks surrounding the lower fall, the spectator commands a fine view of Loch Ness, backed by the steep and ample sides of Mealfourvonie; while at his feet sweeps the precipitous bed of the river, a rugged ravine of great depth, with here and there a trembling aspen or gnarled pine; and beyond, the hill side descends to the lake, beautified with woods of waving birch, and the smiling parks around the house of Foyers, which occupies a site of surpassing beauty, where the spent torrent, still and motionless, joins its waters to the lake. The beach at the landing place is abundantly covered with columbine, a rare indigenous plant in our northern latitudes.

76. About two miles below the Foyers, the deep defile of Inverfarikaig gives a glimpse of a very romantic pass, guarded

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at the entrance by a lion-shaped hill, called the Black Rock, a noble precipitous frontlet, which is surmounted by the vitrified fort of Dun Jardil. Intermediate between Inverfarikaig and Foyers, is the inn called the General's Hut, and the house of Boleskine, in the vicinity of which Prince Charles was received by Lord Lovat shortly after the disastrous issue of Culloden.

77. On the western promontory of the bay of Urquhart, (about two miles from Drumnadrochet) stands the ruins of a venerable stronghold—the Castle of Urquhart, often noticed in the annals of the Stuarts and earlier Scottish monarchs. It overhangs the lake, and is built on a detached rock, separated from the adjoining hill, at the base of which it lies, by a moat of about twenty-five feet deep and sixteen broad. The rock is crowned by the remains of a high wall, or curtain, surrounding the buildings, the principal of which, a strong square keep of three storeys, is still standing surmounted by four square hanging turrets. This outward wall encloses a spacious area, and is in some places terraced ; and in the angles were platforms for the convenience of the defending soldiery. The entrance was by a spacious gateway, between two guard rooms, projected beyond the general line of the walls, and was guarded by more than one massive portal, and a huge portcullis, " to make security doubly sure." These entrance towers were much in the style of architecture peculiar to the castles of Edward I. of England ; and in front of them lay the drawbridge across the outer moat. The whole works were extensive and strong, and the masonry was better finished than is common in the generality of Scottish strongholds.

The first siege Urquhart Castle is known to have sustained was in the year 1303, when it was taken by the officers of Edward I., who were sent forward by him to subdue the country from Kildrummy, near Nairn, beyond which he did not advance in person ; and, of all the strongholds in the north, it was that which longest resisted the efforts of his arms.

Alexander de Bois, the brave governor, and his garrison, were put to the sword. Sir Robert Lauder of Quarrelwood, in Morayshire, governor of the castle in A.D. 1334, maintained it against the Baliol faction. His daughter marrying the Laird of Chisholm in Strathglass, the offspring of their union, Sir Robert Chisholm of that Ilk, became Laird of Quarrelwood in right of his mother, and constable of Urquhart Castle in right

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of his grandfather. After this period it is known to have been a royal fort or garrison; but it is very likely it was so also at the commencement of the fourteenth century, and existed as such in the reigns of the Alexanders, and other early Scottish sovereigns. In 1359 the barony and castle of Urquhart were disponed by David II. to William Earl of Sutherland and his son John. In 1509 it fell into the hands of the chief of the clan Grant, and in that family's possession it has continued to this day.

The mouth of Glen Urquhart presents a wide expanse of cultivated land, reaching to the hill tops, and diversified with wood.

As we near the foot of Loch Ness, from its contracted limits, we discern, on the south side, the mansion-house of Aldourie, the residence of Mr. Fraser Tytler, sheriff of Inverness-shire, and the birth-place of Sir James Mackintosh.

A narrow strait connects Loch Ness with the beautiful wood-encircled waters of Loch Dochfour. On the flat gravelly neck or peninsula, which divides this little loch from Loch Ness, are the traces of a small Roman encampment, which communicated with another near the late inn of Pitmain in Badenoch, and was thus the station furthest advanced into the heart of Caledonia by these masters of the world. Chalmers* says this spot is called the British Boness, that is, the foot or lower end of Loch Ness, which the Romans latinized into Bonessia, and Ptolemy into Banatia. It is an oblong square, rounded at the corners, and encircled by ramparts of earth, and an irregular ditch from twenty to forty feet wide. But these remains have recently been a good deal defaced in the formation of a towing-path for vessels. On a square mound closely adjoining stand the foundations of an old baronial keep, called Castle Spirituel, and which in ancient days must have completely commanded the passage of the neighbouring fords over the river Ness.

Dochfour House (Baillie), a large shewy mansion in the Venetian style, with its fine old trees and lawn, and terraced gardens, lining the water's edge, is one of the most delightful residences in the county.

78. The canal runs for greater part of the remaining distance to the east sea along the north bank of the river Ness, and commands a fine view of the fertile valley of the Ness, the

* Caledonia, vol. i. p. 68.

wooded face of the broad terrace, which lines it on the south, and the cultivated sloping expanse of the Leys behind, with the mansion-houses of Leys, Ness Castle, Ness-side, and a succession of villas as the boat nears her destination, whence the eye ranges over a beautiful section of the Moray Firth, bounded by two opposing gravelly promontories, on one of which, midway across the water, may be observed the walls of Fort-George. Passing between the alluvial eminences Torvain and Tomnahurich (the latter a remarkable artificial-like structure resembling an inverted ship) the steamer stops at Muirtown Locks, below the vitrified fort Crag Phadrick, and within a mile of Inverness, which lies on the plain at the river's mouth on the right, where vehicles are always in attendance to convey passengers to the different hotels, the Caledonian, Union, and New Royal. On the top of the ridge of the Leys, stretching eastwards from Loch Ness, in the line of the town, lies the battlefield of Culloden.

As the national work, by which we have supposed the tourist to have thus made his way to the capital of the Highlands, is an object of general interest, and has now been completed, a more detailed history and description than has yet been given to the public may be acceptable.

79. One of the most prominent features in the geography of Scotland is, unquestionably, that great opening which extends from the shores of Caithness, directly across the island, through the shires of Inverness and Argyle to the Atlantic Ocean. The principal part of this valley or opening is occupied, as we have seen, by the waters of two arms of the sea, Loch Linnhe and the Moray Firth ; and of the space of land between these two, which is only sixty miles in extent, nearly two-thirds, the reader is aware, are covered by a series of fresh water lakes. To the plains and low hills fringing its eastern entrance succeed, towards the interior, chains of rugged mountains, which gradually increase in height, and attain the greatest elevation in Britain at Ben Nevis, near Fort-William, which rises 4370 feet above the sea.

This valley, commonly called " Glen More nan Albin," the " Great Glen of Scotland," divides the county of Inverness, as well as the northern part of the kingdom, or in other words what are called the Highlands, into two nearly equal portions. The large lakes it contains seem naturally to have invited the

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hand of man to connect the Atlantic and German Oceans; and such a communication was at length projected, and has since been formed, on a scale worthy of the grandeur and genius of the British people.

Being one of the most important public works in the north of Scotland, a short history of it cannot fail to be acceptable, and we hope that our readers will not deem the following particulars too lengthy.

80. Although the subject of internal improvement in the Highlands found more or less favour with the public, after the suppression of the rebellions of 1715 and 1745, it is not generally known that the scheme of a navigable canal from Inverness to Fort-William engaged attention at so early a period. In 1773, the trustees for the forfeited estates employed Mr. James Watt, afterwards so celebrated in connection with the improvement and application of the steam-engine, to make a survey of the line, and furnish them with a report and estimate of the expense of making a canal of ten feet water, which he did; but no further steps appear to have been taken at that time, the forfeited estates being soon afterwards restored. The leading objects and advantages of such a communication, however, have never been more accurately or succinctly expressed than in the following extracts from Mr. Watt's report; with this difference only, that they are even more applicable to a canal upon a larger scale than was then contemplated:—

"All vessels going from Ireland, or the west coasts of Britain, to the east coasts of the island, to Holland, or to the continent of Europe north of it, and *vice versa*, together with vessels trading between the east coast and America, must either pass through the British Channel, or go north-about, that is through the Pentland Firth, or through the sounds of, or round the Orkney Islands. At all times going north-about is the readiest passage for the northern parts of the island; and in time of war the danger from privateers in the British Channel, and the height of insurance upon that account, are so great, that many ships, to which that passage would naturally be convenient, are obliged for security or economy to go north-about.

"Wherever a great promontory or termination of a main land is to be passed round or doubled, it is well known to mariners that, from the variety of winds that are necessary, and

from the storms which rage with greater fury at those headlands than upon other coasts, the voyage is more tedious, as well as more dangerous than others of a like length that lie in a direct course. This is remarkably the case with the Orkney passages, to which the northern situation greatly contributes. Besides other inconveniences, they are subjected to periodical winds that blow violently for months together from the east or west, which renders it not uncommon for vessels to be detained six weeks or two months in those harbours. In the winter season, the risk of shipwreck on these boisterous seas is very great, and consequently that passage is little frequented then, and insurances are high. The greatest loss of time in the northern passage generally happens about the Orkneys, as it is there that the winds which brought the vessels northward cease to be of any further service to them, and the seas are generally too stormy to permit them to work to windward.

"From this view of the subject, it appears that a communication such as is here described, between the German Ocean and Atlantic, which would be shorter, more secure, both from the dangers of the sea and from privateers, and also more certain in all seasons than that by the Orkneys, would be more acceptable to all vessels capable of passing through it, even though it were loaded with a toll."

Mr. Watt's estimate for making a canal, with 10 feet water, and 32 locks, each 90 feet long by 25 feet wide, and having a fall or rise of 7 feet (much on the same scale as the present Forth and Clyde Canal), was about £165,000, equivalent of course to a much larger sum of the present day.

81. About the beginning of the present century, in consequence of the gradual conversion of the country into extensive sheep-walks or stock-farms, a general movement of emigration had begun to take place, which threatened the almost entire depopulation of the Highlands. According to the political doctrines which then continued to prevail, any tendency to this result was regarded with much anxiety and alarm; it was pressed on the attention of the government as an evil demanding instant remedy or alleviation; and the urgency of providing employment for the numerous poor inhabitants deprived of their former holdings, was almost universally admitted. In conjunction with other public works proposed at first chiefly with this view, and embracing the construction of new roads, bridges, and harbours,

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throughout all parts of the Highlands, the project of a navigable communication through the Great Glen was again revived; and in the year 1803-4, Messrs. Telford and Jessop, civil engineers, were employed, by Commissioners appointed by Parliament, to survey the line of the intended canal, and to report on the estimated expense. These gentlemen recommended its formation on a scale of unprecedented magnitude; and after a reference to the most eminent authorities of the day, including Mr. Rennie, Captain Huddart, and other well known names, the preponderance of evidence was in favour of adopting their views, which were accordingly sanctioned by the legislature. The dimensions of the canal originally resolved on were as follows, viz.—"The bottom width 50 feet, with slopes of 18 inches to a foot; so that by a depth of cutting of 15 feet, earth will be obtained to make the banks contain 20 feet depth of water, which will be 110 feet in width at its surface." These dimensions, however, were afterwards somewhat modified in the execution of the work. The locks and other appendages to the navigation were to be of corresponding size; and, in short, to give a more exact idea of what that size was, the canal was everywhere to be fitted for the reception of a thirty-two gun frigate of that day, fully equipped, and laden with stores. It is almost needless to observe, however, that the same dimensions would not answer for a vessel of that class now, ships of war having since been increased in their relative proportions. The aggregate of the various estimated expenses was £474,531, exclusive of any allowance for the purchase of land or damages, it being expected that the landowners would consider the benefit to their properties as a compensation for what should be cut away. The charge of executing the whole works of the Caledonian Canal, as it was now termed, together with the other extensive improvements in the Highlands, ultimately devolved upon Telford alone; the choice and confidence of the government being still further confirmed by his professional achievements in other parts of the kingdom, as well as abroad, which soon raised him to the distinguished position of the first engineer of the day.

82. The canal consists of a series of navigable cuts, connecting the upper terminations of the Moray Firth and Loch Linnhe with the inland lakes, and those lakes, viz., Loch Ness, Loch Oich, and Loch Lochy, with each other; involving no

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less than eight several junctions, each attended with its own peculiar difficulties, and thereby counteracting in a considerable degree the saving caused by the lakes in the necessary extent of excavation. The summit level is in Loch Oich, which, receiving abundant supplies of water from a series of upper lakes discharging into it by the River Garry, is admirably adapted for a canal of partition. The surface of Loch Oich, when at its usual summer height, stands almost exactly 100 feet above high-water mark at Inverness and Fort-William; when very much flooded, this elevation is occasionally increased by 4 or 5 feet. The whole length of the passage from sea to sea is 60½ miles; and such is the remarkable continuity of the lakes, and of the intermediate tracts through which the canal is carried, in nearly a uniform direction, that this distance exceeds that of a straight line drawn on the map from one extremity to the other by a difference of from only from 3 to 4 miles. Indeed, the distance might have been still further shortened, and both entrances of the canal very materially improved, if the facilities which the advancing state of engineering knowledge has since rendered available had at first been foreseen, or could at that time have been fully relied on. We subjoin a more detailed statement of the lengths of the respective portions included under the general designation of the Caledonian Canal, viz.—

	Miles.	Chains.
Length from the sea lock at Clachnaharry, through Loch Dochfour, to Loch Ness,	7	65
Length of Loch Ness,	23	56
From the south-west end of Loch Ness, to Loch Oich,	5	35
Length of Loch Oich,	3	56
From the south-west end of Loch Oich to Loch Lochy,	1	65
Length of Loch Lochy,	10	0
From the south-west end of Loch Lochy to the sea lock at Corpach,	8	3
Total length,	60	40

of which there pass through lochs or lakes 38¼ miles, and there are of canal cutting 22 miles; but in addition to the 22 miles

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of dry cutting, a considerable part of Loch Oich, and also portions of Loch Lochy and Loch Dochfour had to be deepened by dredging.

Some further particulars in relation to a work of this unusual magnitude may not be deemed superfluous or uninteresting. The locks are each 170 feet, and where two or more are contiguous, 180 feet in length, and 40 feet in breadth, with an average rise or lift of 8 feet. The whole number of locks, as originally built, is 28, viz., the entrance-lock at Clachnaharry, constructed at the termination of huge embankments forced out into deep water in Loch Beauly; the lock between it and the capacious artificial basin at Muirtown, (occupying a space of more than 20 acres); four connected locks at the opposite extremity of the basin; the regulating lock a little below Loch Dochfour; five contiguous locks at Fort-Augustus; one called the Kytra Lock, about half-way between Fort-Augustus and Loch Oich; the regulating lock at the north-east end of Loch Oich; two united locks between Lochs Oich and Lochy, near a village called Laggan; the regulating lock at the opposite end of Loch Lochy; grand series of locks, eight in number, at Bannavie, within a mile and a quarter of the sea, and commonly called *Neptune's Staircase;* two locks descending to Corpach Basin; and the entrance or sea-lock at Corpach. Some few of the earliest-constructed lock-gates are of timber, wholly English oak, but by far the greater number are framed of cast iron, and sheathed with pine planking. The canal, in the course of its length, is crossed by eight public bridges, which are of cast iron, and swing horizontally. Along the reach of six miles, extending from Loch Lochy to Bannavie, the path of the canal is also crossed by several mountain streams, some of which are conducted under it by arched culverts or tunnels of large dimensions, and others allowed to empty into the canal itself. For drawing off the excess of water brought down by these last during heavy rains, three powerful sluices are constructed at a point where the canal is cut through rock, nearly adjoining, but at a considerable height above, the river Lochy. The action of these is in itself a sight well worth witnessing; the water, when issuing from the triple sluice, falls nine or ten feet before it strikes the rock over which it tumbles, and creates an inundation over the flat land which intervenes between the canal and river Lochy. No artificial cataract exceeds the fury

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and the foam with which this emerges from its rocky cavern—emulating in romantic effect the wildest of our mountain falls. Loch Lochy was raised, and is since sustained, twelve feet above its natural level; to effect which alteration, an entirely new channel had to be cut for the river Lochy, which now discharges itself into the Spean at Mucomer. The immense body of water, in time of high flood, conducted in nearly a level course to this point—where, immediately after passing under the arches of a lofty and picturesque bridge, it falls at once some twelve or fifteen feet, over broken and precipitous rocks, into the lap of one of its own tributaries—presents a grand and imposing spectacle, and exemplifies in perfection both the "torrent's smoothess," and its "dash below." In fact, the vast accumulations of water not unfrequently brought down by the winter storms and floods, of which the great valley is the natural recipient, and which are now everywhere required to be subjected to artificial control, are such as the summer tourist can have no adequate conception of; seeing, as he does, only placid lakes, limpid streams, verdant banks, and, in short, both nature and art in simpering mood and holiday attire.

83. After years of incredible labour and perseverance, surpassed only by the still more gigantic operations to which a different form of inland communication has more recently given rise, and after surmounting many formidable and unexpected physical difficulties, the canal had gradually advanced far towards completion; but the expense had already very much exceeded the original estimates, and the usual obloquy fell upon its promoters and managers. The excess of expenditure in this case, however, was not so much due to the natural difficulties of the undertaking, for which of course some allowance must necessarily have been made, as to the great rise which took place in the prices of labour and materials during the long progress of its execution. The difference in this respect was such as, in various cases, to have more than doubled the prices originally calculated on; and, as a single instance of what occurred, owing to the vast quantities of oak timber drawn from the principal forests for the supply of the navy during the heat of the war, the price of that article amounted to an entire prohibition, and was the cause of cast-iron being substituted, as has been said, in the formation of the lock-gates. Explanations of this kind, rational as they might now be deemed since

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the history of railways has familiarised us with cases of infinitely more glaring disproportions, were found insufficient to appease the wide-spread discontent and clamour for economy, arising out of the collapsed state of public credit, and general depression of the trading interests, which followed upon the close of the late war. On the selfish principles which had dictated the spurious liberality of many at an earlier period, the Highlands had now ceased to be of importance as a nursery of thews and sinews for the national defence; and doubts, not merely of the utility, but of the actual practicability, of completing the canal for the purposes of commerce, were loudly expressed. Much opposition was latterly given, therefore, to the annual grants by Parliament for the further prosecution of the work, which were now reluctantly doled out, and at length entirely discontinued. In this humour of the public mind, and to obviate the objections urged on the score of utility and practicability, it was resolved to open the canal in its then unfinished state, with the limited depth of water which a few temporary expedients could command; and, accordingly, that event took place, with due ceremony, in October 1822, when the late Charles Grant, Esq., for a long period Member of Parliament for the county of Inverness, (the most zealous and active of the Canal Commissioners,) gave a splendid fete to about seventy gentlemen who accompanied him in a steam-barge, the first vessel that passed from sea to sea.

The following is an abstract of the sums disbursed by the Canal Commissioners, as appears from their Report of the 23d of May 1827, showing the total expenditure from the 20th of October 1803, to the 1st of May 1827; and from this summary, keeping in view the primary object with which the canal was originally undertaken, namely, the employment of the native population, and the diffusion of useful arts and industrious habits among them, some estimate may be formed of the extent to which those beneficial results must necessarily have been realized:—

1. Management and travelling expenses,	£33,108	1	2¼
2. Timber, and carriage thereof, .	72,035	5	8¾
3. Machinery, cast iron work, tools, and materials, ...	128,084	19	9
Carry forward,	£233,228	6	8

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Brought forward,	£233,228	6	8
4. Quarries and masonry, . .	199,528	17	6¾
5. Shipping, ...	11,673	15	6½
6. Houses and other buildings, .	5,470	2	5
7. Labour and workmanship, (day work),	47,202	5	3
8. Labour and workmanship, (measure work), ...	418,101	17	9
9. Purchase of land, and payments on account of damages, . .	47,951	7	9¾
10. Purchase and hire of horses and provender, . . .	3,428	3	3¾
11. Incidental expenses, . .	2,337	16	3½
12. Road-making, . . .	4,348	9	9¼
Total disbursements,	£973,271	2	4½

84. At or before this period, as already noticed, the appropriation of funds towards the original formation and completion of the Canal, may be said to have ceased ; and the expenditure for many years subsequently was chiefly limited to its maintenance and repair. Immediately on its first opening, a regular communication was established, and has since been maintained, between Inverness, Glasgow, and the west coast generally, by means of steam-boats. It likewise afforded facilities for the exportation of a large quantity of fir, birch, and other timber from the interior of the country to the collieries, and for the purposes of the herring fishery. In addition to these, the chief intercourse on the canal was confined to vessels employed in the coasting trade between the opposite sides of the kingdom, with occasionally a few of the smaller Baltic traders. Owing, however, to the temporary and imperfect nature of the expedients resorted to in the first instance for opening the canal before the works had been properly completed, it was found that even the limited depth of water thus attained was not to be depended on ; and from the absence of many essential facilities for the convenient transit of vessels, the traffic, although at times by no means inconsiderable, showed little or no tendency to increase. The revenue derived from it proved inadequate to the expense of ordinary maintenance, which, on account of the great scale of the works, was necessarily considerable, while their use was limited to the accommodation of a very inferior class of vessels

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to that for which they were designed. The consequence was that the unfinished works soon fell into premature decay; the former temporary expedients either ceased to be of further avail or could no longer be upheld; several casualties occurred which threatened danger, not only to the canal itself, but also to the adjoining districts; and a crisis at length arrived during which it became a question whether it might not be necessary to abandon the canal altogether, unless it were taken up anew by the government, completed wholly in the manner originally proposed, and furnished with all those aids and appliances which both experience, and the improved conditions of modern science had shown to be requisite for its proper working efficiency.

85. In these untoward circumstances the Commissioners, with the concurrence of the Government, placed themselves in the hands of Mr. Walker, then President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and the foremost man of his profession after Telford, who had long since paid the debt of nature, and died full of years and honours. In the early part of 1838 Mr. Walker, after visiting the line of the canal, reported fully on the whole subject, and concluded with an earnest recommendation in favour of the thorough renovation and completion of the works, and of providing all due facilities for the future accommodation of trade; which recommendation was soon after backed by the further approval of a committee of the House of Commons. Still such were the financial difficulties of the day, that several years elapsed before the ministry could make up their minds to embark in the required expenditure; and before doing so, as the question now seemed to involve chiefly nautical considerations, it was thought necessary, both for their own vindication and for the satisfaction of the country at large, to have the express opinion of a naval officer distinguished for skill and judgment in such matters. The person selected for this purpose was Sir W. Edward Parry, the celebrated Arctic voyager, and then at the head of one of the departments in the Admiralty; whose instructions were "to ascertain, by personal communication with the principal ship-owners and merchants in the ports of Liverpool, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Leith, Newcastle, and Hull, to what extent it was probable that vessels sailing from those ports would make use of the canal if the projected improvements were all executed." The result of this investiga-

tion, which was embodied by Sir Edward in an elaborate report, with details of the evidence taken, was on the whole confirmatory of Mr. Walker's views. He computes the average saving of time to vessels taking the canal, instead of the north-about passage by the Pentland Firth, to be nine and a half days, and the saving of expense on wages, victuals, and insurance, less canal dues, assuming pilotage and lights to be about equal either way, at the former rate of a farthing a ton per mile (for the whole distance), to be £33:2:10 on a vessel of 200, and £62 13s. 10d. on a vessel of 300 tons burthen; and even were those rates doubled, £22:4:6 and £43:6:6 respectively, independent of the great advantage to the merchant of the increased expedition in the transport of his goods, and a considerable saving in the insurance of vessel and cargo, he comes to the conclusion, "That if the Caledonian Canal were made efficient, it would very shortly be used by almost all those coasting vessels which now pursue a northern route in trading between the eastern and western coasts of England and Scotland (especially Hull and Liverpool, and all parts to the north), or between the former and the ports of Ireland; by nearly the whole of the vessels, whether British or foreign, coming from the Baltic, especially late in the season, and bound to ports on the western coast of this island, or to the ports of Ireland; and not unfrequently by vessels trading between our north-eastern ports and North America, or the West Indies: That in case of war with any nation fitting out fast-sailing vessels, as privateers, the passage by the Caledonian Canal for merchant vessels would almost wholly supersede that by the Pentland Firth; since a single efficient man-of-war, of no great force, would suffice to give protection to each approach of the canal by sea."

86. The scruples of the Government being at length removed, instructions were given to Mr. Walker to prepare detailed plans, specifications, and estimates, for the repair, completion, and improvement of the canal; and in 1843 a contract was entered into with Messrs. Jackson and Bean, contractors of reputation, for the execution of the whole of the works in course of the three following years. They included the erection of an additional lock at the S.W. end of Loch Lochy, for the better regulation of extreme floods in that lake; the formation of retaining weirs; the deepening of shallows; and a great variety of subordinate operations, of which the main object was to se-

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cure a uniform navigable depth of eighteen feet water at all times, with every requisite convenience for the safe transit of vessels—it being now deemed unnecessary for commercial purposes to attain the extreme depth of twenty feet, as originally proposed. Arrangements were also made for having a sufficient number of steam-tug boats ready for towing vessels through the lakes and estuaries, as soon as the canal should be re-opened; the channels leading to it at both ends have been properly buoyed off; lights placed at the entrances from the sea and at each extremity of the lakes; and suitable charts and sailing directions published. The Moray Firth is now fully accommodated with the requisite number of light-houses, erected by the Northern Light Commissioners; but there is still a great want of a light-house on Corran Point, so as to place the navigation of the Western Approach upon an equally safe and commodious footing.

87. The whole cost of the general completion and improvement of the works, including the purchase of steam-tug vessels, amounted to about £200,000, which was the sum estimated by Mr. Walker; so that with the accumulated expense of maintenance, and occasional repairs since 1827, and the payments of long outstanding damages for lands, &c., the gross disbursements on the canal from the commencement now reached the enormous sum of £1,300,000; but this was subject to a deduction of some £70,000 or £80,000 received up to the same period for canal dues, rents, interest, &c., thereby limiting the entire cost to the nation to somewhat more than £1,200,000.

In April 1847 the canal was re-opened, and has since been in operation with all the advantage of the increased depth of water and other accommodations referred to. For the greater encouragement of traffic at the outset, the rates have been fixed very low; being only 1s. 3d. per register ton on all vessels *under*, and 1s. per ton on all vessels *above* 100 tons, for the entire passage of the canal, while the charges made for the assistance of steam-tug boats when used, horse-trackage, or other expenses, may generally be estimated not to exceed 1s. per register ton additional. Of course, this latter charge is avoided in the event of favourable winds, or by such as can make head without the assistance of the steam-tugs, &c. Special dues are levied on steam-vessels and steam passage-boats, and on vessels loading or discharging cargoes in the canal basins or harbours. Ships of 500 and 600 tons burthen, fully laden, have of late

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passed through the canal; and ships of 800 tons burthen can be accommodated in the canal basin, and alongside the wharfs at Muirtown, near the town of Inverness, to which a depth of nineteen feet water can be admitted. The passage from sea to sea at all times can now be depended on to be made within a very few days, and for the most part within forty-eight hours. The increase of traffic since the last re-opening of the canal has not hitherto proved so great as was generally anticipated, which may be imputed in a great degree to accidental causes, but it is steadily progressing; and it is impossible to doubt that in proportion as all its present facilities and advantages become more fully known and appreciated, they will yet exercise an important influence on the maritime interests of the northern parts of the kingdom.

88. By a recent act, the Crinan Canal, which had long been mortgaged to the Government on account of sums advanced for its completion and repairs, has been incorporated with the Caledonian Canal; and new commissioners have been appointed, including several of the noblemen and principal landed proprietors whose estates adjoin their respective localities.

89. The situation of Inverness and line of the Caledonian Canal, generally, have been thought well adapted for the establishment of manufactories of native wool, from the great facilities of water-carriage now afforded to either side of the kingdom. It is well known that the whole wool of the Highlands, forming one of the staple products of the country, is at present transported in its raw state to the southern markets, involving thereby a great waste of expenditure in the mere article of conveyance, which might undoubtedly be saved to the native grower by converting it to its ultimate uses on the ground where it is produced; and it is somewhat surprising, when the many obvious advantages within reach are considered, that no attempt should yet have been made on an extensive scale to carry any project of the kind into execution. With the raw material on the spot, the rate of labour and the prices of food lower than in the south, and with an unlimited command of water-power in every direction, ready to be applied to the purposes of manufactures at scarcely any expense, there cannot, we think, be a doubt that such an establishment, if conducted with the proper degree of skill and enterprise, would, in a short time, be attended with complete success.

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Other undertakings of a like nature might be suggested as equally proper for the advantageous employment of capital and enterprise at Inverness. By means of the canal, which places it on a sort of highway between the Baltic and Ireland, from which the materials for the flax and hemp manufactures are chiefly derived, it is perhaps even more favourably situated for that trade than Dundee, its present great emporium. The double communication to the east and to the west, affords important advantages ; and the Moray Firth is of equally easy and *more safe* access from the Baltic than that of the Tay. In short, there is no description of trade or manufactures that might not be prosecuted beneficially, and to any given extent at Inverness, when the greatly improved facilities of the canal communication are permanently developed ; while to the numerous processes for which the use of pure water is indispensable, no situations can be better adapted than those which the line of the navigation offers throughout the greater part of its extent, with no expense beyond that of appropriating the bounties of nature to those purposes, which elsewhere involve so serious an addition to the cost of manufacture.

90. An eloquent writer in the Edinburgh Review* looks forward to the extension of railway communication as likely to have an important effect on the future destinies of the Caledonian Canal. Referring to it as the probable link of union between the extreme points of the lines on opposite sides of the kingdom, he says—" Glasgow will, no doubt, be the *terminus* of the great western line ; but there is every reason to believe that the eastern line will extend itself to a much higher latitude. We scruple not to predict that a quarter of a century will scarcely elapse before it shall reach Inverness, the capital of the Highlands. When this grand object is gained, the value of the Caledonian Canal will then be recognised by the blindest and dullest of its detractors. It will stand forth the connecting link between the great lines of traffic which embroider the skirts of our otherwise deserted shores—the grand aortal trunk into which the arteries of the south will pour their exuberant wealth. The remotest Highlands will then become a suburb of the imperial metropolis. The fruits of the south will be gathered in climates where they could not grow ; and, while the luxuries of the east are sweetening the

* No. CXLI. *Life of Telford.*

coarse fare of the mountaineers, the more intellectual imports of civilization and knowledge will gradually dispel the ignorance and feudal barbarism which still linger among their fastnesses." We must somewhat modify the precise place thus assigned by anticipation to this great national work. As subsequent events point to the foundation of a great line of internal railway to Inverness by the extension of the great central or western lines of through communication from south to north, onwards from Perth by the valleys of the Tay and the Spey, so that Inverness may ere long be reasonably expected to become a common centre of conveying currents and streams of traffic from the opposite coasts and along the interior of the kingdom. Notwithstanding, the utility and importance of the Caledonian Canal will be in all probability enhanced in consequence of the more thorough development of the resources of the Highlands by means of such additional facilities of transport.

91. Without venturing to indulge such sanguine speculations as to the future, we are content to fall back upon what has already been accomplished ; and we cannot more appropriately close our brief sketch of one of the leading objects of attraction in this part of the kingdom, than with the following beautiful lines from the pen of the poet Southey, written during his temporary sojourn at Bannavie, adjoining the *Neptune's Staircase*, while on a tour of the Highlands in 1819. These will always deserve to be quoted as a just tribute to the memory of his friend TELFORD ; identified as that name must ever be with the first conception, the vigorous prosecution, and successful issue of the whole series of public improvements, which in an incredibly short space of time have, as has been truly said, advanced the Highlands at least a century in the scale of modern civilization, and indeed, in many important respects, have already placed them on a level with the more favoured regions of the south :—

> Where these capacious basins, by the laws
> Of the subjacent element, receive
> The ship, descending or upraised, eight times
> From stage to stage with unfelt agency
> Translated, fitliest may the marble here
> Record the architect's immortal name.—
> TELFORD it was by whose presiding mind
> The whole great work was plann'd and perfected ;
> TELFORD, who o'er the vale of Cambrian Dee
> Aloft in air at giddy height upborne
> Carried his navigable road ; and hung
> High o'er Menai's Strait the bending bridge

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Structures of more ambitious enterprise
Than minstrels in the age of old romance
To their own Merlin's magic lore ascribed.
Nor hath he for his native land performed
Less in this proud design; and where his piers
Around her coast from many a fisher's creek
Unsheltered else, and many an ample port
Repel the assailing storm; and where his roads
In beautiful and sinuous line far seen
Wind with the vale and win the long ascent,
Now o'er the deep morass sustained, and now
Across ravine or glen or estuary
Opening a passage through the wilds subdued.

92. Having conducted the reader to Inverness by what is now the great thoroughfare, the canal, we will, in concluding this section, devote a few pages to a more detailed description of either side of Loch Ness.

The Great Glen forms the chief line of communication between the opposite coasts of the north of Scotland, and among the military roads formed between the periods of the rebellions of 1715 and 1745, one was conducted along the south side of this great valley. This, like the other military roads, was repaired and improved by the Parliamentary Commissioners appointed for carrying into execution the views of government regarding the improvement of the Highlands at the commencement of this century, under whose direction also new lines of road were formed along the opposite sides of Lochs Ness and Oich.

93. Along the space (of seven miles) from Fort-Augustus to Invermoriston, on the north side of Loch Ness, the road is, for the most part, straight and level; and the shore of the lake being low, the road keeps near the edge of the water, through long avenues of hazel and birch. A good view of the fort and surrounding country is obtained at about a mile's distance from the garrison; but a still better one will be found from the rocks at the mouth of the river Oich.

At the opening of Glen Moriston, the road beyond the inn of Invermoriston, a small but snug and comfortable house, passes above the house of James Murray Grant, Esq., proprietor of the glen—an old-fashioned fabric modernised, beautifully situated, surrounded with wooded parks, and encompassed by abrupt hills of considerable altitude, altogether an appropriate residence for a Highland chieftain. The traveller will enjoy an excursion of eight or ten miles up Glen Moriston, which, for that space, is one mass of birch and pine, with but few arable patches, and watered by a clear river, the banks of which afford

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many glimpses of exquisite beauty. Immediately below the inn is a picturesque waterfall ; the river, of considerable size, pouring its waters from an open channel headlong into a confined duct of shelving rock, which conveys them to the lake.

94. From Invermoriston to Drumnadrochet the distance is thirteen miles, and the whole road one of extreme beauty ; it generally proceeds at a considerable elevation above the lake, through luxuriant, overhanging woods, where the profuse intermixture of oak and ash, with birch and alder, adds much to the richness and tone of colouring. Dark and dense masses of pine are frequently seen crowning the lofty and craggy heights above ; while beneath, the rowan and hawthorn trees mingle their snowy blossoms, or coral berries, with the foliage of the more gigantic natives of the forest. The road is, in part, overhung by the fantastic branches of the yet youthful oak ; while the stately ash, rooted in the steep declivities below, shoots up its tall, straight, perpendicular stem, and with its scattered terminal foliage slightly screens the glassy lake, or purple ground colour of the opposite hills ; and the airy birch droops its pensile twigs round its silvery trunk, "like the dishevelled tresses of some regal fair." Here, as elsewhere, along the banks of the lake, the sward and the underwood are alike most beauteous, the ground carpeted in early summer with the primrose and wood anemone, violet, and harebell ; and as the season advances, the leafy green of the forest glade, richly spangled with the modestly glowing and delicate corollas of the wild rose, challenging comparison with any of the denizens of the shrubbery or flower-garden. The dark-purpled heath in tufted wreaths presents itself wherever an opening in the wood or a frontlet of rock allows ; while the bracken, with its rich verdure, spreads itself over the ground, alike where shaded by the green wood, or where sloping otherwise unclad to the base of the rocky surmounting acclivities.

Along the north road are two waterfalls of some claim to notice.

95. At Aultsigh, a picturesque cottage, three miles from Invermoriston, a stream from behind Mealfourvounie issues forth of a ravine of great depth, flanked on the east side by the precipitous sides of the mountain base, which presents a bold frontlet not less than 1200 hundred feet in height, half-clad with clambering, aged pine trees. The lower declivities, with

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the front to the lake, and the opposite side of the defile, are shrouded in birch, of which, and of hazel, holly, and alder, there are specimens of remarkable growth by the burn course, which also exhibits several pleasing waterfalls. The lowest—but a few yards off the road—offers a very perfect picture. At a little distance in front of the fall, between low walls of rock, spanned by an old arch graced with pendent festoons of ivy and eglantine, the burn descends in a shelving rapid. Through the interlacing boughs of oak and hazel appears the cascade, about twenty feet in height ; while behind a wooded screen, surmounting the rocky channel of the stream, towers the bluff frontlet with its scattered pines.

We have been the more minute in describing this little scene, as it is associated with the Raid of Cilie-christ (Christ's Church), one of the most sanguinary and brutal affairs that stain the annals of an age of general blood and rapine. In the early part of the seventeenth century, Angus, eldest son of Glengarry, had made a foray into the Mackenzie's country : on his way home he was intercepted by a gallant little band of Mackenzies, and slain, with a number of his followers. Some time thereafter a strong party of Glengarry's men were sent, under the command of Allan Mac Raonuill of Lundy, to revenge his death. Allan led them into the parish of Urray, in Rossshire, on a Sunday morning, and surprised a numerous body of the Mackenzies assembled at prayer within the walls of Cilliechrist, near Beauley ; for so was their little chapel called. Placing his followers so as to prevent all possibility of escape, Allan gave orders to set the building on fire. The miserable victims found all attempts at escape unavailing, and were, without a single exception—man, woman, and child—swallowed up by the devouring element, or indiscriminately massacred by the swords of the relentless Macdonells, whilst a piper marched round the church, playing an extemporary piece of music, which has ever since been the pibroch of the Glengarry family.

The work of death being completed, Allan deemed a speedy retreat expedient ; but the incendiaries were not to escape with impunity ; for the funeral pile of their clansmen roused the Mackenzies to arms as effectually as if the fiery cross had been carried through the valleys. Their force was divided into two bodies : one, commanded by Murdoch Mackenzie of Redcastle, proceeded by Inverness, with the view of following the pursuit

along the southern side of Loch Ness; whilst another, headed by Alexander Mackenzie of Coull, struck across the country, from Beauly to the northern bank of the lake, in the footsteps of another party which had fled in this direction, with their leader, Allan Mac Raonuill. The Mackenzies overtook these last, as they sought a brief repose in some hills near the burn of Aultsigh. The Macdonells maintained an unequal conflict for some time with much spirit, but were at length forced to yield to superior numbers, and fled precipitately to the burn. Many, however, missed the ford, and, the channel being rough and rocky, were overtaken and slain by the victorious Mackenzies. Allan Mac Raonuill made towards a spot where the burn rushed through a yawning chasm of considerable depth and breadth. Forgetting the danger of the attempt in the hurry of his flight, and the agitation of the moment, and being of an athletic frame, and at the time half naked, he vigorously strained at, and succeeded in clearing the desperate leap. One of the Mackenzies inconsiderately followed him, but, wanting the impulse of those powerful feelings which had put such life and mettle into Allan's heels, he had not the fortune to reach the top of the bank: grasping, however, the branch of a birch tree, he hung suspended over the abyss. Mac Raonuill, observing his situation, turned back and lopped off the branch with his dirk, exclaiming, "I have left much behind me with you to-day; take that also." Allan got considerably a-head of his followers; and, having gained the brink of the loch, bethought him of attempting to swim across, and, plunging in, he lustily breasted its cool and refreshing waters. Being observed from the opposite side, a boat was sent out, which picked him up.

The party of the Macdonells, who fled by Inverness, were surprised by Redcastle in a public-house at Torbreck, three miles to the west of the town, where they stopped to refresh themselves: the house was set on fire, and they all, thirty-seven in number, suffered the death they had in the early part of the day so wantonly inflicted.

At Ruisky, a small public-house opposite Foyers, and about five miles from Invermoriston, there is a ferry across the lake, by which the Fall of Foyers can be conveniently visited.

Immediately west of Ruisky, a torrent called Authguithas (Aultghuis) rushes almost vertically down the hill face, in a prolonged cataract, partially screened by trees.

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96. Urquhart Castle has been already described. Glen Urquhart, one of the richest and most beautiful of our Highland valleys, opens up from the lake about fourteen miles from Inverness: its length is about ten miles. From its head, at Corrymony, it gradually widens out; and about its centre it contains a small circular lake, Meiklie, adorned by the houses of Lakefield (Ogilvy), Lochletter, and Sheuglie. At the lower extremity of the lake, the sides of the glen approximate, and the winding strath below continues rather narrow and confined, widening again, however, towards the entrance, and there exhibiting considerable tracts of rich cultivated land carried to the very hill tops. The gently sloping banks of the lake above the fertile fields of Lakefield and Lochletter, and the more steep declivities between it and Loch Ness, are clad to their summits with luxuriant and graceful birch woods, while the frequency of cultivated spaces, and the fertility of the soil, give a peculiar richness and gladsomeness to this beautiful valley. The elegant shrub *Prunus padus* or bird-cherry, grows here to a great size, especially about the house of Polmaily, (General Cameron), and more abundantly than in any other valley we have seen. Indeed, both the soil and climate appear admirably adapted for the rearing of ornamental and fruit trees; and they give birth to an exuberant vegetation, especially indicated by the rankness of the stately and gorgeous *Digitalis* lining the road sides. The greater part of Glen Urquhart is in the possession of the Grant of Grant, or Seafield family, who have a residence in it called Balmacaan.

It is a cause of much regret that the beauty of this charming valley has of late been materially impaired by the ruthless sacrifice of the greater part of its fine birch woods, and that not only without the slightest benefit, but to the absolute pecuniary loss of the noble proprietor, whose forester, in an evil hour, entered into a contract for the supply of a quantity of birch, so large that it is scarcely possible to fulfil it from the Seafield estates in this quarter, and, by some lamentable oversight, at a price which will actually not suffice to pay for the cost of delivery. And this for the most unromantic purpose of manufacturing bobbins for Glasgow cotton mills! How outrageous a proceeding! Why will proprietors persist—for this is by no means a solitary instance—in permitting subordinates to mar, at one fell swoop, natural features, in the development of

which, for the delight of mankind, the benignant Artificer of the Universe has seen fit to expend, it may be, a century of years? The public mind revolts against the unguarded, rough-handed, violation of characteristics which length of time have so identified with a country side, that the public eye, and the public taste, have acquired a sort of prescriptive right to their preservation.

At the mouth of the glen there is a large and excellent inn, called Drumnadrochet. An excursion of four or five miles up the glen should not be omitted; and the pedestrian should follow a by-path, which, opposite the farm-house of Delshangie, strikes across the skirt of the hill, and gives a commanding view of the little lake and its imposing houses. About two miles from the inn, a small burn, descending from the flank of Mealfourvounie, falls over a lofty ledge of rock, forming what are called the Falls of Ghivach or Dhivach: were the body of water not so insignificant, they would, from their height, and the deep, confined, and wooded bed of the stream, nearly rival the magnificent falls of Foyers, on the opposite side of the lake. The base of the fall can be best attained by following the northern bank of the stream, which passes a little below the house of Balmacaan; but it is not at all times very easy of approach, as a branch streamlet crosses the path, and the burn course must latterly be threaded. A pathway will be found along the opposite edge of the ravine from the little bridge of Clunemore, which leads to a pretty good point of view. The fall is in the direct route to Mealfourvounie, should the traveller meditate a trip to its summit, which is here quite easy of access, and affords a less laborious opportunity of a mountain view than is generally the case, and is the work of a couple of hours from the fall.

A district road crosses the hill from Drumnadrochet to the Aird at Belladrum, a distance of about ten miles; and we trust that ere long the head of Glen Urquhart will be connected with Strathglass, by an extension of the road over the intervening space of about three miles.*

97. The burn of Aberiachan, nine miles from Inverness, presents, by the roadside, a succession of falls of from ten to thirty feet in height, with clear basins below, and shelving

* Temple, indicated by the toll-bar and two noble ash trees, may be assumed as the most probable site of one of the most early churches in the Highlands, that of *St. Maolrubha*, built in the seventh century, of "hewn oak," as mentioned in the Breviarium Aberdonense.

rapids between ; the channel lined by low rocks, and shaded by woods of birch. Dochfour House (Baillie), already noticed, is an imposing new edifice in the Italian style ; and a little way on, a granite obelisk, erected to the memory of the late proprietor, Evan Baillie, Esq. A couple of miles from Inverness the Moray Firth, lined by ranges of moderate size, of softened character, open on the view, with a fertile plain and part of the town between, and Fort-George in the distance.

98. The road from Fort-Augustus, on the south side of Loch Ness, conducts across the shoulder of Suchumin. The appearance of the country—the upper portion of an elevated table-land, called Stratherrick—till we reach the river Foyers, which the road crosses at Whitebridge, about four miles above the celebrated Falls of Foyers, is uninteresting, and the road exceedingly hilly and tedious. Here we would direct the traveller's attention to a sequestered spot in the vicinity, of peculiar beauty, on the river Foyers. This is a secluded vale, called Killin, which, besides its natural attractions, and these are great, is distinguished as one of the few places where the old practice of resorting to the "shieling" for summer grazing of cattle is still observed. It is lined by steep mountain ranges, partially decked with birch, and hanging mossy banks, shaded over with the deeper-tinted bracken ; but passing more into naked cliffs, or strewed with broken fragments of rock, intermingled with a scanty verdure sprouted with heath. At the north end there is a small lake about a mile and a-half in length, and from one-third to half-a-mile in breadth. The remainder of the bottom of the glen is a perfectly level tract of the same width with the lake, and about two miles and a-half in length, covered with the richest herbage, decked with numerous wild flowers, and traversed by a small meandering river flowing through it into the lake. The surface of this flat is bedecked with the little huts, or bothies, which afford temporary accommodation to those in charge of the cattle. About half-a-mile from the south end of the lake, Lord Lovat, the proprietor, has erected a shooting-lodge ; viewed from which, or from either end, or from the top of a platform on the north-east side of the lake, fancy could scarcely picture a more attractive and fairy landscape than this sequestered vale, to which Dr. Johnson's description of "the happy valley," not inaptly applies. The milch cows, to the number of several

hundreds, are generally kept here from the beginning of June till the middle of August, when they are replaced by the yeld cattle. In the little bothies, the young girls in charge of the milch cattle pass their peaceful and secluded summers. These are very primitive structures of turf, each of a single small compartment, entered by a low doorway; from one side of which, a breast-high turf screen, advanced a few feet, serves to protect the bed-place from the draught, and a bench of the same material, along the opposite wall, answers the purpose of chairs, and completes the arrangements of the interior, excepting that a small inner recess, at one corner, contains the dairy produce, which, we need hardly advise the thirsty wayfarer, is here to be met with in profusion and perfection, and with a welcome. A district road on the west side of the river now invades the privacy of this retreat. On the opposite side, a rough footpath conducts from Whitebridge.

99. Stratherrick is broad and open, and bordered on the north by a wide elevated plain, and the whole encompassed by granite hills shooting up into numerous naked summits; while similar lower eminences display themselves throughout the intermediate space, which is covered with mingled meadow, arable, and moorland. Between the falls and the strath of Stratherrick (a space of three or four miles) the river Foyers flows through a series of low rocky hills clothed with birch. They present various quiet glades and open spaces, where little patches of cultivated ground are encircled by wooded hillocks, whose surface is pleasingly diversified by nodding trees, bare rock, empurpled heath, and bracken bearing herbage. The visitor who, from Inverness, means to return there, may pleasingly vary his homeward route by following the course of the Foyers for a few miles above the falls, and then descending Stratherrick to Loch Farraline, and there turning off by the Inverfarikaig road, through the pass already alluded to, when he reaches Loch Ness side, two miles east of the General's Hut, at Inverfarikaig, where he can bait; and again at Dores, if so disposed. The distance is thus lengthened eight or ten miles; making it rather a long day's journey from and back to Inverness.

For a description of the fall, we refer the reader to the steamer's course along Loch Ness.

100. The General's Hut, as the small inn (18 miles from Inverness) near the Fall of Foyers, is called, from the circum-

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stance of General Wade having had his head quarters in this vicinity when forming the military road along Loch Ness, has been considerably improved by what it was some 20 years ago. But it is still far from affording suitable accommodation at a spot so much frequented as the Falls of Foyers. No doubt, a large proportion of tourists content themselves with a flying visit from the steamers. But this is still a favourite pleasure drive for parties from Inverness, and would be still more so, were there anything half so attractive as the very comfortable establishment at Drumnadrochet, on the opposite side of the lake; for the character of the intermediate scenery, though different, from the effect of greater inequality in the line of the northern roadway, is such as makes the whole excursion a very agreeable one.

101. We would recommend travellers, whom the falls attract in this direction, to explore for a short way the road which strikes off at right angles from the lake on the west side of the Farikaig, about three miles from the Foyers, on the Inverness road. It leads by the side of a brawling torrent, along the bottom of a narrow and deep defile, the pass of Inverfarikaig, which leads into Stratherrick at Loch Farraline. Woods of birch line the bottom and mantle the slopes of the ravine, from which a few groups and single trees extend along the face of the precipitous rocks above, waving their graceful twigs like flowery garlands along the mountain's brow. At the entrance of the pass from Loch Ness the eastern side consists for a considerable space of a range of perpendicular and rugged precipices, and towards the lake the high and broad frontlet of the "Black Rock," surmounting an ample and birch clad acclivity, terminates the range of precipices, and on its summit we discern the green-clad walls of the ancient vitrified fort of Dundarduil.

102. To Dores the road hence continues for eight miles close by the water's edge, passing for about one-half of this space through a succession of straight avenues of hazel, mingled with birch, alder, and ash trees, and rarely presenting favourable views of the lake. The closeness of the wood and coppice, yielding still and prolonged vistas, bestows a character of peculiar repose, freshness, and beauty on the scenery, which has called forth the following eulogium from the pen of Dr. Macculloch:—"If hence from Foyers to Inverness the country presents no pictur-

esque scenery, there is one part of the road which may well redeem the whole ; there is none such throughout the Highlands, so that it adds novelty to beauty, a green road of shaven turf holding its bowery course for miles through close groves of birch and alder, with occasional glimpses of Loch Ness and of the open country. I passed it at early dawn, when the branches were still spangled with drops of dew ; while the sun shooting its beams through the leaves, exhaled the sweet perfume of the birch, and filled the whole air with fragrance."

103. Perhaps the finest view to be obtained of Loch Ness is that which is exhibited, looking back from the ascent from Dores, with the wooded parks of Aldourie as a foreground.

The road onwards leads through the policies of Ness Castle (Lady Saltoun), and past the house of Holm (Mackintosh), and as it approaches the town, runs by the wooded islands of the Ness, the county buildings and jail crowning the castle-hill on the river's brink with an imposing mass of castellated masonry, forming for some time, as we approach, a conspicuous and striking object.

ROUTE FIRST.—BRANCH A.

STIRLING BY LOCHEARNHEAD TO TYNDRUM, AND BY CALLANDER TO LOCH CATRINE, LOCHS LOMOND, CHON, ARD, AND MONTEITH.

Stirling to Tyndrum ; Stirling Rock and Castle ; Town, 1.—Field of Bannockburn, 2. Kincardine Moss ; Valley of the Forth and Teith, 3.—Doune Castle, 4.—Callander ; Falls of Brackland ; Plain of Bochastle ; Ben Ledi ; peculiar observances on Beltein Day, 5.—Pass of Leni ; Loch Lubnaig ; Rob Roy's Grave, 6.—Loch Earn ; Glen Dochart, 7.—*Callander to Lock Catrine, &c.*—Attractions of the scenes of the Lady of the Lake, 8.—Lochs Achray and Venachar, 9.—Loch Catrine ; The Trosachs, 10.—Strathgartney ; Passes to Loch Voil and Strathire, 11.—Route to Loch Lomond, 12.—Loch Chon and Lochs Ard, 13.—Clachan and Pass of Aberfoil ; Loch Monteith ; Ruins of Inchmahome Priory, 14.

			Miles.	Miles.
Stirling to Doune			8	—
Callander			7¾	15¼
Lochearnhead			13¾	29½
Luib Inn			10½	40
Tyndrum			12	52
Dalmally	12½	64½ miles		
Taynuilt	12	76½		
Oban	11	87½		
King's House			18	70
Ballachulish			16	86
Fort-William			14	100

	Miles.	Miles.
Callander to Ardchinchrochdhan	—	8
Loch Catrine	—	1½
Sail up the Lake	—	8
Loch Lomond	5	—
Loch Chon	—	3
Upper Loch Ard	—	4
Aberfoil Inn	—	5
Dumbarton by Drymen	22	—
Callander	—	11
Stirling by the Forth	19	40½

1. For several miles before it joins the Firth, the river Forth rolls in many a tortuous maze through a rich and spacious plain ; its ample flood but slightly depressed below the level of the fattened soil. At a short distance from the northern bank of the river, the Ochils bound this teeming flat. Until it reaches this expanse, the course of the river lies through a wide and level valley. At the mouth of the valley, an isolated eminence rises on the south side of the river, with a somewhat steep slope on the south-east, and on the opposite side presenting an abrupt acclivity, surmounted by a ledge of trap rock. The stratum dips (to speak technically) to the south-west, and the rocky precipice gradually increases in height as it ascends from the plain, till towards the summit it becomes a cliff of considerable elevation, composed of basaltic columns, from the edge of which rise the walls of Stirling Castle. The town is built chiefly on the slope of the hill.

Stirling Castle figures in history as early as the twelfth century, having been one of the strongholds which formed the pledges of payment of the ransom of William the Lion ; and indeed mention is made of it as the rendezvous of the Scottish army some centuries earlier, when the victory over the Danes at Luncarty was achieved. And Stirling was a military station under the Romans. The castle has sustained numerous sieges, especially during our struggles with the haughty Edwards. Here James II. and IV. were born, and James V. and Queen Mary crowned, and James VI. passed his early years under the tuition of George Buchanan ; and it was a favourite residence of all the Stuarts, by whom the greater part of the present buildings were erected. They compose a small square, one side of which, the parliament hall, was built by James III., the palace by James V., the chapel (now the armoury) by James VI. The exterior of the palace, embellished as it is by gro-

tesque busts, fanciful statues and columns, affords a curious specimen of the bizarre and fantastic taste of the period. The castle mounts twenty-nine guns; and the armoury contains 15,000 stand of arms and a few reliques of Scottish story, the most interesting of which is a pulpit of rude workmanship shown as Knox's pulpit. On the Gallow Hill, a mound on the eastward of the castle, Duncan, Earl of Lennox, the Regent Duke of Albany, his son Walter, and his son-in-law and grandson, were beheaded in May 1425; while Douglas' room, looking into the governor's garden, was the scene of the Earl's murder by James II. Stirling rock and castle are very imposing in appearance from many points, but especially from the vicinity of the field of Bannockburn, on the Glasgow road; and the view from the castle is perhaps unequalled in Scotland, combining with great extent and extreme fertility a magnificent range of mountains lining the upper portion of the valley, while the spacious and luxurant plain at the head of the Firth gradually ascends on the south in receding slopes of the same highly cultivated character. In this direction the eye roams over a spacious flat of the highest fertility; ascending, on the south, in a far reaching inclination of the same character, and to the east, giving place to the waters of the Firth, with Edinburgh looming in the distance. Northwards, the moderately elevated sides of the valley conduct to the splendid mountain screen formed by Ben Ledi, Ben Vorlich, Ben Lomond, and other alps. The convoluted windings of the river; the strange contortions of which may be judged of from the fact, that they lengthen the distance by water to Alloa to twenty in place of six miles, betoken the dead level of the surrounding plain. Altogether a richer prospect cannot be conceived, nor can there be a point of view more favourable, commanding an unobstructed range in every direction. A hollow below the castle parade, called "the Valley," was the scene of the joust and tournament, where beauty oft has dealt the prize to valorous achievement. At the lower end of the parade is an antique square edifice, with central court and extinguisher turrets, shooting up from the interior angles. It belonged originally to the Earls of Stirling, and afterwards to the Argyle family. Not far from it, at the head of Broad Street, is a ruinous structure called "Marr's Work," built, about 1570, with stones from Cumbuskenneth Abbey. Beside it stands a handsome Gothic church,

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built by James IV., the chancel of which was added by Cardinal Beaton. King James VI. was crowned in the church, and the coronation sermon was preached by John Knox. All these buildings are near the brink of the rock, along the face of which a terraced walk is carried round the castle. On the plain below is a circular mound, the Knott, known as King Arthur's Round Table, once the centre of courtly pastime.

The town, which consists chiefly of a narrow and irregular street, descending from Marr's Work in a slanting direction to the plain, is of an antiquity as remote as the castle, for it was known as a royal burgh in the reign of Alexander I. It is distinguished for the number of hospitals it contains for the support of decayed tradesmen and guild-brethren and their children. The population amounts to about 7000. The Episcopal Chapel is worthy of notice. Though not large, it is perhaps the most tasteful structure of the kind in Scotland. A handsome new Presbyterian Church has been erected near the chapel. Carpeting and tartans form the chief manufacture. Drummond's Agricultural Museum is worthy of a visit. About half-a-mile above the old bridge of Stirling, there was a wooden bridge, memorable as the scene of Wallace's victory, in 1297, over the English under Warenne and Cressingham. A little to the east of the bridge is the Abbey Craig, whence the Scottish host descended to the fray, so called from Cambuskenneth Abbey, of which the ruins stand on the adjoining plain.

2. Within less than three miles of Stirling, to the southwest, lies the field of Bannockburn—a spot peculiarly dear to every Scottish breast. The battlefield and position of the rival armies is easily understood; and some venerable handicraftsman is generally at hand to narrate the traditionary account. The ground rises with a very gentle inclination on either side of the narrow haugh land, which skirts a small streamlet. On the northern slope, quite near to the village of Bannockburn, "the Bore Stone," where the Scottish standard spread its folds, indicates the centre of the Scottish array. The front extended to the village of St. Ninian's, and rested, on the right, on the Bannock burn. A little way behind, and to the right, is "the Gillie's Hill," the appearance on which of the camp sutlers, opportunely conveyed the impression of a reinforcement to the ranks of their countrymen. As the bottom of the low ground was a marsh, the encounter between the Bruce and Sir

Henry de Boune is conjectured to have occurred on the elevation towards Milton of St. Ninian's. The desperate skirmish, at the same time, between a body of horse under Sir Robert Clifford—which had nigh outflanked the Scottish army, and effected their object of throwing themselves into Stirling Castle—and of infantry, under Randolph Earl of Moray, took place on the low ground to the north-east of St. Ninian's, the day before the main battle, Moray coming off victor. This great conflict, which gave freedom to our country, and inspired the most spirit-stirring of our national songs, was fought on Monday, 24th June 1314. The command of the centre of the Scottish host was committed to the Earl of Moray; of the right wing to Edward Bruce; and of the left to Sir James Douglas and Walter the Steward of Scotland; Bruce himself, with Angus of Isla, taking immediate charge of the reserve, immediately behind the centre, and composed of the men of the Isles, Argyle, Cantyre, Carrick, and Bute, with a body of 500 well-appointed cavalry. The English van was led by the Earls of Gloucester and Hereford, and commenced the fight, by attacking the Scottish right wing. The main body of the English army was commanded by King Edward in person, attended by the Earl of Pembroke, Sir Ingram Umfraville, and Sir Giles de Argentine. The tourist should not omit, on quitting Bannockburn, to hie him to the south end of the adjoining village of Milton of St. Ninian's, where, near the mill, and close by a cottage on the site of that into which he was carried—and of which one of the identical gables still subsists—is the well where James III. was thrown from his horse on his flight from the battle of Sauchieburn. The king's horse, it will be recollected, was startled by a woman who was drawing water suddenly raising herself, and the monarch was thrown, and being carried into the mill, was stabbed by a person who came up, supposed to be Stirling of Kier.

The celebrated Roman camp at Ardoch, near Dunblane; the ruins of the Cathedral; Archbishop Leighton's Library, and some other objects about Dunblane; and the field of the battle of Sheriffmuir, invite description. But we have already lingered beyond the Highland boundary as long as our limits permit, and must hasten to reconduct the reader towards the hilly North.

One continuous but serpentine thread of successive valleys penetrates the mountain maze, from Stirling to the western

confines of Inverness-shire. This natural line of communication was selected as one of the great military roads of the early part of the last century; and now it forms the drove road for the cattle of the west coast and islands, and a delightful route for the tourist, though still not the best in the world for four-in-hand.

3. Proceeding up the wide valley of the Forth, the road passes the house of Craigforth, opposite which is seen the house of Kier, (Stirling,) and, two miles from Stirling, crosses the river at the Bridge of Drip. It then runs for several miles through what is still called the Moss of Kincardine, though now rich cornfields occupy the greater part of this once marshy and bleak tract. About eighty years ago, the late Lord Kaimes became proprietor of 1500 acres of the moss, which, to his shrewd intellect, appeared readily reclaimable from its then unprofitable condition. At an average depth of seven feet below the surface of the moss, a substratum of rich carse clay, with a thin covering of vegetable mould, held forth the prospect of a most inviting return for the expense of disencumbering it; and as his Lordship's possessions extended from the Forth to the Teith, which flows along the north side of the valley, a large wheel was erected to lift water from the latter stream for the purpose of floating the moss, by means of drains cut in the clay, into the Forth. Portions of the moss were let to tenants, in lots of eight acres, on leases of three nineteen years; without rent the first nineteen; twelve shillings for each acre brought into culture the second nineteen years; and so increasing, till, towards the close of the lease, they come to pay a guinea per acre. About 200 families are now settled on this portion of the moss, who live in neat houses disposed in regular lanes, and equidistant from each other. On the expiry of the whole leases, a rental of between £4000 and £5000 a-year will be the fruit of this judicious improvement.

For about four miles above Stirling, the valley continues of considerable breadth. It then becomes still wider. The lower part, a dead level of the richest carse land, is lined on the north by a low and sloping rising ground, cultivated and wooded; the verdant hills opposite are of moderate size, but a noble mountain screen rises behind the northern side, and stretches across the upper extremity of the valley. Ben Ledi, Ben More, and Ben Lomond, are the most prominent of these alps.

Five miles and a half from Stirling, the road passes the

House of Blair-Drummond, the residence of Mr. Home Drummond, M.P., embosomed in fine woods and plantations; and half a mile farther on, at the church of Kincardine—a neat specimen of the modern Gothic—the Callander road, ascending the low sloping side of the valley of the Forth, ushers us into a new district of country, watered by the Teith. The valley of the Teith, betwixt the Forth and Callander, is almost filled up with a spreading terrace descending from the summit of the smoothly outlined hills, in most gentle undulations, which are highly cultivated, and variegated with clumps, belts, and rows of hardwood, pine, and larch trees, presenting an extended surface, apparently not less than a couple of miles in width, of fertile fields and nodding woods, peculiarly beautiful. The Teith glides smoothly on between low and richly wooded banks.

4. On the further side of the river, eight miles from Stirling, stand the village and Castle of Doune. The castle, a massive and very imposing structure, said to have been built about the commencement of the fifteenth century, by Murdoch, Duke of Albany, overhangs the point of a steep and narrow green bank, washed on one side by the Teith, and on the other by a small mountain burn, and is conspicuously situated where a very gentle hollow on the east, communicating with Dunblane, still further enlarges the far-extended surface of corn-fields and woods presented to the eye. At one end of the front a spacious square tower rises to the height of about eighty feet: another, not quite so large, shoots up from behind the opposite extremity. A strong back wall, about forty feet high, forms the whole into an ample quadrangle. The principle room in the building, between the towers, is seventy feet long; that in the great tower forty-five feet by thirty: the kitchen fire-place seems capacious enough to have admitted the whole household to ensconce themselves beneath the chimney. The exterior angle of the main tower, bulging out into a rounded projection of goodly proportions, considerably heightens the appearance of solidity and strength. A ponderous grated gate still exists within a heavy iron-studded folding-door; and, though roofless, the walls are entire. Stately elm, plane, and ash trees surround this venerable stronghold. The tourist will view this interesting structure with additional regard, since it has been depicted in the classic pages of "Waverley," as the place of durance whither his Highland captors carried that English chevalier.

The village of Doune, a little removed from the edge of the river, contains a considerable number of slated houses. It was of old celebrated for the manufacture of Highland pistols. A part of the inhabitants now derive their subsistence from cotton works, established where the road crosses the river. In the immediate vicinity is Cambuswallace, a seat of the Earl of Moray, and, at the distance of three miles from Doune, Lanrick Castle (Jardine), on the opposite margin of the river.

5. As we advance towards Callander, the sloping uplands assume more of a pastoral character. Near it, pass Cambusmore (Buchanan), where Sir Walter Scott passed the greater part of his boyhood, and Gart House (Stewart). This village is situated at the foot of the chain of mountains which, stretching to the westward, form the Highland boundary ; and on the north side of a flat plain, through which the Teith, meandering, assumes a change in the direction of its course, which, from its original easterly one, here deflects to the south, towards the Forth. Callander consists chiefly of a long row—on each side of the road—of neat white-washed and slated houses ; the greater number of one storey. It contains a suitable church and school-house, and excellent inn. An older portion of the village occupies the south side of the river, which is crossed by a substantial bridge. Behind Callander, to the north, the face of the bounding hills presents an ample, lofty, and perpendicular rocky front, with scattered trees. Beneath it is spread the spacious and highly cultivated plain of Bochastle. Several of the inhabitants employ themselves in weaving their neighbours' yarn and wool into towelling, table-cloths, tartan, and other coarse fabrics, for home consumption and for sale. The Falls of Brackland, about two miles to the east of the village, may serve to occupy a leisure hour. They consist of a series of short falls, shelving rapids, and dark linns, formed by the Keltie Burn, in its progress through a low rocky chasm, descending a succession of horizontal ledges of rock. A few trees thrown across used to afford scope for some little trial of resolution in adventuring the defenceless passage : now, a frail railing dispels all sense of danger. Rich corn-fields and woods, with several elegant villas, cover the flat surface of Bochastle, the plain through which, at Callander, the sinuous river holds its course. Some curious winding banks near the stream encompass considerable spaces of ground, which are laid out in

terraced walks and tasteful shrubberies. On the Dun of Bochastle are the traces of a fortification, having the remains of three mounds and ditches. A straight artificial bank, on either side of the eminence, is conjectured to have been designed for the practice of archery. To the westward the Teith is joined, from the north, by the river Lubnaig. The lofty mountain rising between is Ben Ledi, "The Hill of God," upwards of 3000 feet in height. In early ages, tradition reports that it was customary for the people to assemble, for three successive days, on its summit, for the worship of their deity; most probably, of Baal, or the sun. A small lake on Ben Ledi is called Lochan-an-Corp; a name commemorative of the incident of a whole funeral party from Glenfinlas, who were crossing it when frozen over, having been drowned by the ice giving way.

Within a recent period some practices were observed in the parish of Callander—not, however, confined to it—which seem to be vestiges of Druidical rites. On Bel or Baal-tein, the first day of May, it was customary for the boys to meet, and cut a circular trench in some verdant spot, in the centre of which a fire was lighted. A sort of custard of eggs and milk was dressed, and an oatmeal cake was prepared. When the former had been discussed, the cake was divided into pieces corresponding with the number present, and, one bit being blackened, the whole were put into a cap, and each individual drew one. He who had the misfortune to fall upon the black piece was the victim to be sacrificed to Baal, to propitiate his genial influence for a productive season. On All Saints' eve, numerous bonfires were lighted, and the ashes of each collected in a circular heap, in which a stone was put near the edge for every person of the hamlet, and the individual whose stone happened to be displaced by the following morning was regarded as *fey; i. e.* one whose days were numbered, and not to be expected to survive twelve months.

6. Continuing our course northward, about a mile beyond Callander, the road passes through a village, consisting of a few scattered, thatched, and tiled huts, called Kilmahog; and, shortly after, enters the Pass of Leni. The river—a tributary of the Teith, as already observed—is lined with eminences, at first low and bare, but gradually increasing in height, and soon becoming covered with a dense oak coppice; and the stream is found making a large circular sweep along the foot of Ben

Ledi's crescent sides, which, above a heathy slope, uprear two successive lofty and perpendicular rocky precipices, each surmounted by a high pale-green acclivity. This pass leads to the extremity of Loch Lubnaig, "The Crooked Lake;" a narrow sheet of water, about five miles in length, of which the central part forms nearly a right angle with either extremity. The hills on both sides are steep and lofty, and press closely on the water. Those on the west and south are particularly bold, almost wholly bare rock, and all but perpendicular, and their broad shadows give an air of peculiar gloom to this lake. A portion of the eastern side, at the northern extremity, is wooded with oak, birch, ash, and beech; the rest of the mountains are bleak and bare, with the exception of stunted alders, fringing the water-courses on the lower slopes, and some scattered trees around Ardhullary. This is a farm-house, about the middle of the east side; classical as the retreat in which the celebrated traveller, Bruce, secluded himself when composing his work on Abyssinia. About a mile from the north end of Loch Lubnaig is a small village, called Immirrioch, and to the country people known by the byname of Nineveh, consisting of about thirty houses; most of them one-storeyed and slated.

The district of country lying between the end of Loch Lubnaig and Lochearnhead is called Strathire, and is joined, about half-way, by another valley from the west, called Balquhidder. Balquhidder is chiefly occupied by the waters of Loch Voil and Loch Duine. It was at the upper end of Loch Voil that the noted Rob Roy, for the most part, lived in the latter days of his life; and he is buried in the Kirkton of Balquhidder, at the lower end of the lake, and about two miles distant from the public road. The arms on his tombstone—a fir tree, crossed by a sword, supporting a crown—denote the relationship claimed by the Gregarach with the royal line of Stuart. Our readers will recollect the circumstance, in the novel of "Rob Roy," of Rob's escape in crossing the river. Such an incident as is there narrated did occur in the braes of Balquhidder. A party, headed by the Duke of Montrose, having succeeded in laying hold of him, he was buckled behind Grahame of Gartnafuorach, who, unable to withstand the captive's remonstrances, slipped the belt when they had reached a spot where the fragments of rocks strewing the hill face precluded the possibility of pursuit with horses.

7. Lochearnhead, where there is a comfortable inn, is three miles from the opening of Balquhidder. The lake is about seven miles in length, and a mile across where broadest, and is environed by moderate sized hills, of a soft and flattish outline, which possess much sweetness of character, notwithstanding that their height is considerable.

Glenogle, next in succession on the course of the northern road, is for the first few miles very narrow, and the mountains strikingly grand ; rising, on one hand, in a steep acclivity, surmounted by perpendicular precipices ; on the other, in a succession of terraces in short perpendicular falls and abrupt slopes. The rest of the way to the valley of the Dochart is a dreary waste.

The bottom of Glen Dochart is chiefly flat meadow-ground as far as Luib Inn (ten and a-half miles from Lochearnhead), when it is found occupied by irregular eminences, springing up from either side. These are succeeded by two small lakes, Loch-an-Our and Loch Dochart ; beyond which Strathfillan presents a narrow tract of meadow-ground. The hills rise in various inclinations, but are continuous, and they shoot up into distinct summits. Ben More, whose conical summit is pre-eminent on the south side, rises in one continued acclivity from the side of Loch-an-Our. The glen is open, with a few trees at wide intervals scattered over its surface. The junction of the road from the head of Loch Lomond with the main line, is at Crinlarich, a public-house between three and four miles from Tyndrum.

Occasionally conveyances run from Stirling to Tyndrum, in connection with the Oban and Fort-William coaches.

CALLANDER TO LOCH CATRINE.

8. The scenery of the chain of lakes immediately to the west of Callander, through which the main branch of the Teith successively holds its course, has acquired a degree of celebrity almost unparalleled, the genius of a Scott having invested it with all the charms of perhaps the most generally engaging and popular, as they are among the earliest and freshest, of his creations. And the treasures of his fancy could not be more fittingly enshrined, for the hand of Nature has here, too, lavished some of its most exquisitely beautiful realities. Such

combined influences have conspired to render the Trosachs and Loch Catrine of peculiarly favourite resort. And they do well sustain their high reputation. The picturesque solicits our admiration with heightened interest, associated as each spot is with romantic and poetic story. Foremost perhaps is the impulse to cast anxious and inquiring glance around, to determine a local habitation for each varying image and incident of the poem cherished in fond remembrance. The sight of Loch Catrine may suggest the stately galleys of Roderick Dhu—

"Steering full upon the lonely isle;"

the mountain echoes answering the loud strains of Clan Alpine's pibroch, or the rocks resounding to the praises of its chief, chanted by the voices of a hundred clansmen: fair Ellen and her skiff—the Douglas, "Stalwart remnant of the bleeding heart"—Fitz James and his gallant grey, flit across the mental vision.

In undertaking the duties of a guide, it shall be our endeavour at once to delineate the character of this much-famed district, and to direct the traveller to the position of the more prominent localities of "The Lady of the Lake."

9. The mountain range, which forms the outskirts of the Highlands, runs for several miles due west from Callander, and then deflects to the south, towards Ben Lomond. Lochs Achray and Venachar, into which the waters of Loch Catrine discharge themselves, lie on the outside of the Highland boundary; while the latter is encompassed by mountains, through which a communication has been formed between Lochs Catrine and Achray by some great convulsion of nature, sweeping away the connecting link between Ben A'an and Ben Venue. These mountains, that,

——————"like giant stand,
To sentinel enchanted land,"

present on each side lofty and inaccessible precipices: and the intermediate pass, known as the Trosachs, or, "bristled territory," in Gaelic etymology, is occupied by intricate groups of rocky and wooded eminences: on the south sides of Lochs Venachar and Achray rise sloping heathery hills, the bases of which are fringed with wood and oak coppice. Ben Ledi, the hill of God, towers on the north. The range which connects it with Ben A'an swells out unequally; at times sending down

ragged heights clad with dense foliage, which overhang the edge of the water in steep acclivities, and enclose between them plots of open uneven ground. Loch Venachar is four miles long, and three quarters of a mile across at the broadest part; Loch Achray a mile and a-half long, and its greatest width one mile. Both of them narrow towards the east end. From Callander to Coilantogleford, at the lower point of Loch Venachar, where Roderick Dhu was overcome by Fitz James, is about two and a-half miles; the space between that lake and Loch Achray, by the road, about two miles, and from the western extremity of the latter to Loch Catrine, one mile or more; making the whole distance from nine to ten miles. Lanrick Mead, the mustering-place of clan Alpin, lies on the north side of Loch Venachar, where the road diverges from the lake: a little way on, on the face of the hill towards the left, is the farm of Duncraggan. The Brig of Turk crosses the water, which, descending from Glenfinlas, joins the Teith between Lochs Venachar and Achray; and advancing a mile and a-half beyond it, we reach the commodious new inn of Ardchinchrochdhan, beautifully situated on the side of Loch Achray, and itself an imposing semi-castellated structure, differing widely from its equally attractive predecessor, which, with its rustic work and creepers, transported the fancy to southern climes.

10. Loch Catrine is of a serpentine form, encircled by lofty mountains, and is ten miles in length, attaining in some places a breadth of two miles. From the varying surface of its girdling frame of hills, and its own inflections, it presents considerable diversity of aspect from different points of view. The narrow river which conducts its waters to Loch Achray keeps the southern side of the intermediate isthmus, sweeping by the foot of the precipices of Ben Venue. Between the river and Ben A'an, occur, as already observed, various short rocky ridges, rising into summits of different characters; some more or less spiry; others presenting elongated outlines. This labyrinth is tangled o'er with a forest of oak coppice, birch, and brushwood; which likewise climb high up the face of the long and almost vertical side of Ben A'an. Ben Venue not many years ago could also boast a myriad of noble trees, which the extreme irregularity of its shattered rocky sides threw into the most varied and effective groups. The lover of the picturesque has to lament the removal of those graceful appendages; still

its noble form, its grey perpendicular cliffs and green acclivities, rising tier upon tier, high in air, and partially screened by a huge portion of itself, detached from the parent hill by a deep defile, and presenting to the lake a mass of shivered fragments of rock, the memorials of some great convulsion, in connection with this rugged foreground, which again is flanked by sheeted masses of brilliant emerald, possess altogether a singularly arresting majesty and grace; while at the base lie the terminal eminences of the Trosachs, shrouded in foliage, and deeply intersecting the confined and sheltered waters of the lake. But we must draw from a higher source to do justice to such a scene:

"The western waves of ebbing day
Roll'd o'er the glen their level way;
Each purple peak, each flinty spire,
Was bathed in floods of living fire;
But not a setting beam could glow
Within the dark ravines below,—
Where twined the path, in shadow hid,
Round many a rocky pyramid,
Shooting abruptly from the dell
Its thunder-splinter'd pinnacle;
Round many an insulated mass,
The native bulwarks of the pass,
Huge as the towers which builders vain
Presumptuous piled on Shinar's plain.
Their rocky summits, split and rent,
Formed turret, dome, or battlement,
Or seem'd fantastically set
With cupola or minaret,
Wild crests as pagod ever deck'd,
Or mosque of eastern architect.
Nor were these earth-born castles bare,
Nor lack'd they many a banner fair;
For, from their shiver'd brows display'd,
Far o'er the unfathomable glade,
All twinkling with the dew-drop sheen,
The briar-rose fell in streamers green,
And creeping shrubs of thousand dyes
Waved in the west wind's summer sighs.
Boon nature scatter'd free and wild
Each plant or flower, the mountain's child:
Here eglantine embalm'd the air,
Hawthorn and hazel mingled there;
The primrose pale and violet flower
Found in each cleft a narrow bower;
Foxglove and nightshade side by side,
Emblems of punishment and pride,
Group'd their dark hues with every stain
The weather-beaten crags retain;
With boughs that quaked at ev'ry breath,
Grey birch and aspen wept beneath;
Aloft the ash and warrior oak
Cast anchor in the rifted rock;
And higher yet the pine tree hung
His shatter'd trunk, and frequent flung,

Where seem'd the cliffs to meet on high,
His boughs athwart the narrow'd sky;
Highest of all, where white peaks glanced,
Where glist'ning streamers waved and danced;
The wanderer's eye could barely view
The summer heaven's delicious blue.
So wond'rous wild the whole might seem
The scenery of a fairy dream."

The rocks of the Trosachs, as already stated, extend in successive promontories into the lake, and occasion so many narrow inlets. A terminal portion of one of these headlands, detached from the adjacent shore, and covered with wood, will be recognised as "the Isle" of the poem. In the defile of *Beal-an-Duine*, where Fitz-James' steed fell exhausted, we are in the heart of the great gorge. Then appears a narrow inlet, and

a moment after LOCH CATRINE itself, in the full blaze of "living light," bursts upon our view, its sides descending in circling wooded slopes; the Alps of Arroquhar towering in the distance.

The variety of scene is great and striking, alike from spaciousness of expanse and intricacy of detail: impending wooded rocks, shaded bowers, secluded inlets, an ample lake, and extensive mountain ranges. The form of Ben Venue is certainly remarkably noble: faced with abrupt but verdant acclivities

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and grey rocky spaces, and sending down long ramifications to the lake, it enters into most of the fine landscapes to which the wooded eminences of the Trosachs, and shores of Loch Catrine form such splendid foregrounds. Ben A'an is not so prominent, but its lower acclivities shrouded with wood are exceedingly rich, while above them it uprears a naked pyramidal summit, which forms a remarkable object from various points.

Coir-nan-Uriskin, "the Den of the Ghost," will attract a share of the traveller's notice. It is marked by a deep vertical gash in the face of one of the extensive ramifications of Ben Venue, overhanging the lake: an abrupt rocky mass rising from the edge of the water, above alluded to, is flanked on either side by a ravine, which stretches up the hill, the intervening acclivity being strewn with immense fragments of stone. Here Douglas concealed his daughter, when he removed her from Roderick Dhu's island. Above the top of the eastern hollow is Bealachnambo; the pass by which, in days of black-mail and reivers, cattle were driven across the shoulder of the hill.

The island was always the resort of the women and children on occasion of hostile incursions. One of a party of Cromwell's soldiers is related to have swam out for the purpose of unmooring a boat, that his comrades might revenge on the defenceless occupants of the isle the death of one of their number who had been shot in the Trosachs. As he neared the island, his fellow soldiers looking on, one of the women severed his head from his body, a spectacle which induced the hostile party to make the best of their way out of the intricate defiles they had ventured into.

We would recommend the tourist not to content himself with what is to be seen of the Trosachs from the road, but to explore their untrodden mazes, and especially to follow the old track, which will be observed on the right, on quitting Loch Achray, and which will conduct him to the foot of the wooded precipices of Ben A'an. After being ferried over to Coir-nan-Uriskin, he should return by the south side of the river.

There is now a small steamer on Loch Catrine, and a keen competition in coaching is kept up to and from Stirling and the Bridge of Allan.

11. It may be well to remark, for the benefit of pedestrians who mean to extend their rambles farther north, that if, instead of retracing their steps to the Pass of Leni, they follow on the

east bank the course of the stream which is crossed by the Brig of Turk, they will very soon find themselves among the secluded hamlets of Strathgartney. From hence they may proceed to Lochearnhead, by either of three glens which will be found to descend into the strath. Glenfinlas, the most westerly, conducts to the side of Loch Voil; Glen Main, the central one, to the Kirkton of Balquhidder, at the lower end of that lake; and Glen Cashaig, by the west end of Loch Lubnaig, into Strathire. This last is the shortest, but it will take about six hours' walking to reach Lochearnhead from Ardchinchrochdhan. The pass between Glen Cashaig and Strathire rises to a considerable elevation, and an alpine view is obtained from the top, of surpassing magnificence, comprehending some of the loftiest mountains in Scotland—Ben Voirlich, Ben More, and Ben Lawers, with their contiguous ranges. The descent into Strathire is very steep, and it is necessary at the commencement to keep well to the left hand, along the face of the hill.

12. If the traveller's route be towards Loch Lomond, a sail of eight miles will bring him near the west end of Loch Catrine. The little steamer plies in connexion with the Loch Lomond boat. There is a clean bothy at the west end of Loch Catrine, where refreshments can be had, and on reaching Loch Lomond a smart new inn will be found at the water side. It is rather odd, in the near vicinity of Glasgow and Edinburgh, and in a locality teeming with tourists, to find roads of so very inferior a description as connect Loch Catrine, Loch Lomond, and the contiguous Lochs Ard, Chon, and Monteith; and indeed parts of the road to the Trosachs, are very unsuitable to the locomotion to which it is now-a-days subservient. The district road trustees might beneficially bestir themselves, and make some little exertion to keep pace with the advance of the age. The intermediate distance of five miles thence to Inversnaid (where the Loch Lomond steam-boat touches), through an upland valley bounded by bare hills, must be traversed on foot or with the aid of a country pony. Ponies and cars are accordingly kept for that purpose at the boat-house. In one of the smoky huts on the way may be seen a long duck-gun, once the property of the renowned local hero Rob Roy. Towards the east end is a small tarn called Arclet, and within a mile of Loch Lomond, on an esplanade at the foot of the hills on the north side, stand the ruins of Inversnaid fort, a military post indica-

tive of the once turbulent habits of the MacGregors, and other natives.

Lochs Chon, Ard, and Monteith.

13. We shall suppose our tourist desirous of paying a visit to the beautiful but less known scenery of Loch Chon, Loch Ard, and Loch Monteith, on the course of the Forth. A branch of the rugged path to Inversnaid fort strikes off about a mile from Loch Catrine, and at the eastern extremity of Loch Arclet. At a distance of rather less than three miles we reach Loch Chon, and its little islet, a secluded sheet of water about one and a half mile in length, and half a mile in breadth ; and of a character which impresses a sense of subdued repose upon the mind. It is bounded on the south by a lofty and green mountain, rising in a steep acclivity, and its opposite shore is fringed with coppice. Two miles further on, the intermediate space being occupied with corn-fields fringed with hazel and coppice, Upper Loch Ard comes into view ; and a romantic waterfall is not far off. It is about two miles long, and perhaps one broad, surrounded by low rocky and wooded hills, their low shores patched with arable ground, and about midway is a comfortless-looking inn. The road courses along the margin of the lake under a ledge of perpendicular rock, at the west end of which is an echo of considerable power. Secluded, sweet, and peaceful in character, this lake is still deficient in interest till the lower end is reached. There the view westward is splendid. The lake, somewhat narrowed, is here lined by wooded ledges of rock, with short wooded promontories, and the whole sheet of water immediately surrounded by a series of wooded eminences, surmounted by higher heights behind ; on a rocky islet, moulder the ruins of a stronghold of Murdoch, Duke of Albany. At the further end of the lake rises Ben Lomond in great majesty, its graceful peak towering high in air, and between it and the loch, in like manner, lies an inner and lower frame, giving at once breadth and height to the imposing mountain screen. The features of Highland landscape begin to be sensibly softened down, and this change of character is heightened as we progress onwards. Fertile fields and verdant meadows, crowned by sombre woods, form prominent features in the landscape intermediate between the Upper and Lower Loch, the space traversed by the road being about a mile, though the connecting stream

is only about a couple of hundred yards in length. A footpath strikes off towards Ben Lomond, by which the tourist could cross the hill, and reach Rowerdennan, on the banks of Loch Lomond; or he has the choice of the road from Aberfoil Inn, by Gartmore and Drymen, to Dumbarton, a distance of twenty-two miles. Lower Loch Ard, which is about a mile long, and correspondingly narrower than the upper one, has its southern bank formed by a range of low and bare but steep hills, that on the north by a wooded ledge of rock closely hemming in the water and the road. From the lower extremity is presented a most perfect picture. The small lake, with its steep banks lined with reeds and water-lilies, is displayed in front, divided by a projection of meadow ground, into two compartments. Beyond rise the wooded eminences separating Lower and Upper Loch Ard, forming an ample and rich middle distance, while behind all rises Ben Lomond pre-eminent, the distinguishing feature of the scene.

At the lower end of the loch are some pyroligneous works, for which the abundant coppices about furnish supplies.

14. At the Clachan of Aberfoil is the junction of the Douchray and Forth, here called Avondhu, or the black river. Impending and wooded mountains throw a shade over the vale, which is about a mile in width. Under the rocky precipice on the north, and the rocky ledges lining Loch Ard, lies the Pass of Aberfoil, noted in times gone by as the scene of the defeat of a party of Cromwell's troops by Graham of Douchray and his Highlanders, and still more so, in our day, by the writings of the author of "Rob Roy."

The tourist will find a comfortable inn at the Kirkton, a mile or more below the Clachan and Loch Ard, without any apprehension of meeting a similar repulse to Bailie Nicol Jarvie's. The path across the hill to the Trosachs is five miles and a-half long. But to reach Callander, the ordinary plan is to enter the "Port of Monteith." Below Aberfoil the valley widens very much, attaining a breadth of even eight or ten miles. The river is skirted by a broad tract of level land, succeeded on each side by a wide undulating terrace pretty generally brought into cultivation. Interrupted independent hills border the vale on the north, while on the south the long, almost horizontal line of the Fintray hills, surmounted by the lumpish Campsie hills, proclaim that the Highlands are now fairly left behind. Three

miles below Aberfoil, on the right, lies extended, in all its smiling compass, the Lake of Monteith, of a circular form, six miles in circumference, and adorned with aged trees. On the largest of its two islands are the ruins of the priory of Inchmahome, founded by Edgar, King of Scotland, where the unfortunate Queen Mary passed her infancy. The smaller one contains the remains of the castle of the Grahams, earls of Monteith. The lake is encompassed on the north and west by level, cultivated, and meadow ground, dotted with aged oak and other trees, and rising into almost imperceptible slopes. On the south the rising slopes are clad with fir, and a long point of low land, bearing a row of pines, and projecting from the shore, with the wooded island of Inchmahome, almost intersects the lake. Gartmore House (—— Graham) and Rednock House, the seat of General Graham Stirling, eastward of the lake, will attract attention ; and about seven miles after turning our backs on its waters, at the Port of Monteith, which is four miles from the inn of Aberfoil, we once more enter Callander ; or proceeding by the valley of the Forth to Stirling, the distance is fifteen miles.

ROUTE FIRST.—BRANCH B.

FROM FORT-WILLIAM TO ARISAIG AND MOIDART.

Fort-William to Glenfinnan ; Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel ; Route by Mam-Clach-Ard, 1.—Prince Charles' Monument ; Erection of the Prince's Standard ; Loch Shiel, 2.—Kinloch Aylort ; Borradale ; Landing-Place of the Pretender, 3.—Arisaig ; Ferry to Skye, 4.—Castle Tirim ; Loch Moidart, 5.

	Miles.
Fort-William to Glenfinnan	18
Kinloch Aylort	10
Arisaig	12
	40

1. The Loch-na-Gaul road, as it is called, diverges from the Inverness and Fort-William road about two miles from the latter place, immediately to the east of Inverlochy Castle, and it now crosses the river Lochy by a handsome suspension bridge, whence it proceeds in a straight line to the canal, and the commodious new inn at Bannavie, hard by. At the village of Corpach, about a mile beyond, is an obelisk, the inscription on which, to

the memory of Colonel John Cameron of Fassifern, who fell at Waterloo, will be found in the main route. The mountain group, of which the huge bulk of Ben Nevis forms the most prominent member, shews to great advantage from this side of the valley.

The road along Loch Eil side, and as far as Glenfinnan, is an agreeable level, skirting the base of the hills. Winding onwards, we pass rather more than half way up Loch Eil, Fassifern, the house of Sir Duncan Cameron, Bart., surrounded by formal clumps of fir and larch.* This gentleman's ancestor, the celebrated Sir Ewen Cameron, distinguished himself as Cromwell's most undaunted and uncompromising opponent in the Highlands: his sturdy spirit induced the usurper to construct a fort at Inverlochy, which, in King William's reign, being altered and enlarged, received the name of Fort-William. Sir Ewen, then a young man, signalised himself by a gallant and successful attack on a large detachment of the garrison (quadruple his own force), who had landed on the east side of Loch Eil, to lay waste the lands of his clan, and provide themselves with timber from the extensive forests which bordered the water. Lochiel's handful of men lay in ambuscade, till the soldiers coming ashore had got entangled in the wood, when, by a furious and sudden onset, they, following their adversaries even chin deep, drove them to their boats with the loss of upwards of a hundred of their fellows. Sir Ewen encountered a very powerful English officer, an overmatch for him in strength, who, losing his sword, grappled with the chief, and got him under: but Lochiel's presence of mind did not forsake him; for, grasping the Englishman by the collar, and darting at his extended throat with his teeth, he tore away the bloody morsel, which he used to say was the *sweetest* he had ever tasted!

* The pedestrian who really delights in hill excursions, would, with the aid of a guide, enjoy one of the most magnificent in Scotland, by striking over the mountains to the north from Fassifern, through Glen Suileag (the eye valley), to Feath Bheolan (the marshy pass), which conducts by the pinnacle of Stron Liath to the pass of Gualna-Hosnuich, or the panting pass, leading into Glen Camagorie, or the rough-winding valley. Proceeding thence over Mam-nan-Long to Ceun Loch Arkeg (described in our next route), leave on the left Glen Cuernan and Glen Pean (the glen of pellucid waters), and holding onwards right up Glen Dessary, the hardy adventurer at length attains the mountainous pass of Mam-Clach-Ard (simply the high rocky pass), which in wildness and ruggedness rivals Glencoe, and at the northern side of which lies Caen Loch Nevis in the district of Knoidart. Before attempting this grand excursion, the pedestrian should be perfectly satisfied of his powers to endure fatigue, of the settled state of the weather, and he should carry a good stock of provisions with him, and be prepared, if need be, to pass the night in a poor shepherd's cot.

2. At the head of Loch Shiel appears a round narrow tower which no traveller can behold with indifference. It was erected by the late Mr. Macdonald of Glenaladale, on the identical spot where, upon the 19th of August 1745, Prince Charles Edward first unfurled his standard, in the attempt to regain the throne of his ancestors, so honourable, but so disastrous to his unfortunate adherents; and it has been surmounted by a colossal statue, by Greenshields, of the unfortunate but chivalrous prince, in the full Highland garb, his extended arm pointing to the south as in the act of addressing his enthusiastic followers. The clan Cameron, to the number of 700, headed by "the gentle Lochiel," and 300 men commanded by Macdonald of Keppoch, composed the greater part of the little band who commenced this hazardous enterprise. The standard, which was made of red silk, with a white space in the centre, and twice the size of an ordinary pair of colours, was unfurled by the Marquis of Tullibardine, titular Duke of Athole. A bronze tablet within the monument, with an inscription in Latin, English, and Gaelic, records the transaction.

Loch Shiel, which separates Inverness from Argyleshire, is a fresh-water lake, straight, and extremely narrow, but upwards of twenty miles long. It discharges itself by a small streamlet into the sea near Loch Moidart. The adjoining mountains, being the termination of diverging chains, present an interesting irregularity of outline, and a most magnificent disposition in their grouping.

3. Between the comfortable small inn of Glenfinnan, at the head of Loch Shiel, and that at Kinloch Aylort, a distance of ten miles, there is another fresh-water lake, Loch Rannoch, about five miles in length, which is separated from the head of Loch Shiel by a pass of no ordinary grandeur. This loch varies in its breadth, and is adorned with one or two little islets.

By far the finest part of the beautiful ride from Fort-William to Arisaig is that portion between Kinloch Aylort and the house of Borradale, (Macdonald of Glenaladale.) It comprehends a space of only seven miles, but very rarely indeed is such varied or interesting scenery to be met with in so small a compass. With marine landscape are combined woodland glades, and a peculiar richness of vegetation accompanies our footsteps.

It was on the shores of Loch-na-Nuagh, below the house of

Borradale, that the Chevalier Charles, in 1745, first touched the soil he came with purpose to redeem by the sword. He crossed from Borradale to the opposite coast, and walked by Kinloch Moidart to Loch Shiel, where, taking boat, he proceeded up the lake to Glenfinnan, at the entrance of which his Highland friends rendezvoused to tender him their allegiance and make offer of their services.

4. Arisaig consists of a few scattered houses; on the face of the hill above them a neat Roman Catholic chapel has been erected. In the vicinity, Arisaig Cottage (Lord Cranstoun.) The inn is large, but is in bad condition. This line of road, owing to the breadth of the ferry to Skye, and the want of piers, has been little frequented since the opening of a communication by Kyle Rhea ; and now the steam-boats have put an end to the ferry from Arisaig to Skye, though boats for passengers, but not for vehicles, can still be had. The steamers call regularly off Arisaig. A road has for some time been in contemplation from Arisaig to Malag, at the opening of Loch Nevis, and opposite Armadale, where the passage across would be comparatively short, and better than by the old ferry from Arisaig, which has now been discontinued. In crossing from Skye, it is customary to land near Tray, in South Morar, which shortens the sail to ten miles. From Tray a bad district road, scarcely passable with a gig, leads to the inn at Arisaig, where the parliamentary road from Fort-William terminates.

5. Those whom curiosity may induce to visit the ruins of Castle Tirim, the ancient seat of Clanranald, at the opening of Loch Moidart, will find Arisaig or Kinloch Aylort the best points at which to diverge from the public road. From the former the most convenient method is to be ferried over to the coast of Moidart, landing near a farm-house called Samulaman, whence an easy hour's walk by a country road will bring the traveller to another farm-house, Kyles, on Loch Moidart, and opposite the castle, where a boat can be procured to cross the remaining space, which is about three quarters of a mile. The distance from Kinloch Aylort to Kyles is eleven miles ; a communication is formed betwixt them by a bridle-road, which at Kinloch Moidart joins the parliamentary one to Coranferry. This horse-track keeps by the side of Loch Aylort, a narrow arm of the sea, studded with numerous rocky islets, and along the base of Stachd and Roschbhen, passing about half way to the castle,

a farm-house called Iren; when within half a mile of Samulaman, the road, as already mentioned, strikes across Moidart to Kyles.

The opening of Loch Moidart is occupied by two small islands, (Teona and Rishka,) adorned with birch and larch plantations. At the other extremity of the loch, the low heathy hills skirting which have no interest, stands the mansion of Colonel Robertson Macdonald of Kinloch Moidart.

Castle Tirim is built on a low peninsular rock, sometimes completely surrounded by the sea. Its form is pentagonal, two sides being occupied by buildings, and the others formed by a lofty and very thick wall, enclosing a spacious court. The central part of the castle is three storeys high; and each extremity rises to the height of four storeys with corner watch-turrets. A terrace is carried along the interior of the court wall, and from the promenade thus formed, an occasional view is commanded of the sea and surrounding country; the top of the wall is pierced with a range of musket-holes. All the windows look into the court; the exterior aspect of the castle being that of a continuous dead wall. From this circumstance, its rising also on three sides from the brink of the rock, and containing a well within its walls, Castle Tirim must have been a very secure, as it was a capacious, stronghold. Ranald (son of John of Isla), from whose son, Allan of Moidart, are sprung the families of Glengarry and Clanranald, died in 1386 "in his own mansion of Castle Tirim." Tradition reports it to have been built by a lady—"*Bhelvi nighn Rhuouari*," "Helen, the daughter of Roderick;" and it was burnt in 1715 by Allan of Clanranald, when he set out to join the Earl of Mar, previous to the battle of Sheriffmuir, from a dread that, during his absence with the flower of his clan in the service of the exiled Stuart, it might fall into the hands of his hereditary enemies the Campbells.

ROUTE FIRST.—BRANCH C.

LOCH ARKAIG.

Valley of Arkaig; the Dark Mile, 1.—Achnacarry; Mementos of Prince Charles, 2.—Loch Arkaig; Deer Herds, 3.—Kinloch Arkaig; Barracks; Prince Charles in his Wanderings, 4.

1. THIS beautiful sheet of water, though only two miles distant from Loch Lochy in the Great Glen, through which so many travellers are now daily passing, is scarcely known to any but the shepherds who live in its vicinity. It is separated from Loch Lochy, into which it pours a dark and sluggish stream, by a valley which is traversed longitudinally by a line of rocky knolls, clothed with oak and birch trees, among which are scattered some large and hoary trunks of ash, alder, and hawthorn.

The scenery within these knolls is exactly of the same description as the Trosachs of Perthshire; and in one part the road through them is so completely overshadowed by the branches, as to have obtained the name of the *dark mile.*

2. On the west bank of the river Arkaig is the house of Achnacarry, the paternal mansion of the lairds of Lochiel, chiefs of the clan Cameron; and close by the present building (which is in the modern castellated style) are the walls of the old fabric, burnt by the Duke of Cumberland in 1746, and the orchard and summer-house where the "undaunted Lochiel" and the emissaries of Prince Charles Edward hatched the plans of the rebellion.

After the defeat of Culloden, the prince found a refuge in the hills to the north of Achnacarry, in one of which the cave is still shown where he abode. The following is the description of his appearance at this time, given in the Journal of Mr. John Cameron, chaplain at Fort-William, and for sometime companion of his wanderings:—"He was then bare-footed, had an old black kilt-coat on, a plaid, philibeg, and waistcoat, a dirty shirt, and a long red beard; a gun in his hand, a pistol and durk by his side. He was very cheerful and in good health, and, in my opinion, fatter than q^{n} he was at Inverness."

At Achnacarry is a double-barreled fowling-piece, of an old-

fashioned make, (having only one lock,) which the prince was in the practice of using frequently, and which bears the appropriate inscription, " Tu ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito."

3. Loch Arkaig is fourteen or fifteen miles long: it throws itself in among the mountains in three bold and magnificent sweeps, and the level course of its banks is continued on from its western extremity through a beautiful pastoral valley called Glen Dessary, to the coast of Knoidart, so that a road could be carried in this direction with great ease. The parliamentary road reaches no farther than the foot of the loch, about nine miles from Corpach, passing near the mouth of the river the farm-house of Clunes. At the lower end of this lake a small wooded island has been for ages the burying-place of the family of Lochiel; the banks of the loch, till lately, were all along covered with a magnificent oak and pine forest, now cut down; but the shoots and saplings rising from the old stocks are again fringing with a green tufted mantle of brushwood the sides of the hills and the low grounds along the edges of the water. Lochiel's celebrated herds of red-deer (among the most numerous in Scotland) frequent the banks of this lake, and are extremely prejudicial to the young forests, and to the labours of the few husbandmen, who here rent some patches of cultivated grounds. Among the mountains at the head of the lake, a grand assemblage of rugged peaks, are the following glens, leading into the adjoining districts:—Glen Dessary, already noticed; Glen Cuernan and Glen Pean, communicating with Arisaig and Morar; Glen Camagorie, striking into Glenfinnan and Loch Shiel, and Glen Kingie, which conducts to Loch Quoich and Glen Garry.*

4. At Kinloch Arkaig (which is about twenty miles from the side of Loch Lochy) are the walls of an old barracks, erected in the style of those at Inversnaid and Bernera, by order of the Duke of Cumberland, after the battle of Culloden, in 1746. This was one of the most distant and inaccessible of these outposts; it was raised with the view of overawing the Clan Cameron; but it is said not to have been used for more than six months.

Prince Charles and his small party, eight in all, having made a precipitate and narrow escape from 200 of Lord Loudon's men, removed from his retreat near Achnacarry to the

See Note, page 176.

top of the high mountain of Mullantagart, in the braes of Glen Kingie, where he remained without fire or any covering, and durst not rise out of his seat. "The Prince slept all y^e^ forenoon in his plaid and wet hose, altho it was an excessive cold day, made more so by several showers of hail. From thence we went that night to the strath of Glen Kenzie, killed a cow, and lived merrily for some days. From y^t^ we went to the braes of Auchnacarie. The water of Arkeg, in crossing, came up to our haunches. The Prince in y^t^ condition lay that night and next day in open air, and though his clothes were wet, he did not suffer the least in his health." Mr. Cameron concludes his journal by a merited compliment to the patient and cheerful deportment of the Prince under his adverse fortune. "He was cautious q^n^ in y^e^ greatest danger, never at a loss in resolving q^t^ to do with uncommon fortitude. He regretted more y^e^ distress of those q^o^ suffered for adhering to his interest, than y^e^ hardships and dangers he was hourly exposed to."

ROUTE FIRST.—BRANCH D.

LOCH LAGGAN ROAD AND PARALLEL ROADS OF GLEN ROY.

The Corryarick Road, 1.—The Loch Laggan Road, 2.—Glen Spean, 3.—Loch Laggan, 4.—Anecdote of Cluny Macpherson, 5.—The Parallel Roads of Glen Roy, 6.—Loch Spey, 7.—Glen Turret, 8.

	Miles.
Fort-William to Spean Bridge	7
Bridge of Roy Inn	3
(Grand general view of the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy—4 miles from Bridge of Roy.)	
Inn at the east end of Loch Laggan	25
Bridge of Laggan	8
Kingussie	11
	54

1. The Loch Laggan road forms a communication between the Great Glen and the central districts of Badenoch, Strathspey, and Athole; and there is now no connecting line intermediate between this, at the western, and the great Highland road from Inverness to Perth, at the eastern extremity of the Great Glen, the Corryarick road, from Fort-Augustus by Gar-

vamore, having of late years been allowed to fall into disrepair, and being now impassable for any sort of vehicle, though still frequented by the droves of sheep and cattle on their way to market. In commemoration of the Corryarick road—the *ne plus ultra* of the peculiar characteristics of the old military highways in the Highlands—we may observe in passing, that it went right over a lofty mountainous pass, accomplishing the descent on the southern declivity by no fewer than seventeen traverses, like the wormings of a cork-screw. Garvamore, a well-known stage on this road, eighteen miles from Fort-Augustus, and thirteen from Dalwhinnie, now no more fulfils its oft welcome service of shelter and refreshment to weary man and beast.

2. In striking contrast with the Corryarick is the Loch Laggan road—a parliamentary one—admirably engineered and constructed; it branches off from the Great Glen about seven miles from Fort-William, at Spean Bridge, a handsome structure across the river of that name, which issues from Loch Laggan.

From Spean Bridge to Loch Laggan the distance is seventeen miles, and the length of that lake about ten. There is now a good inn at the Bridge of Roy, ten miles from Fort-William, and another at the east end of Loch Laggan (nineteen miles from Kingussie), having, instead of a sign, the lintel over the door cut with the words, "Le Teghearn Cluane," or "The Laird of Cluny," to denote that the traveller is within his domains, though not now happily subject, as of old, to his right "of pit and gallows." In the intermediate space of twenty-five miles, there is no resting-place, except a wretched hovel at the west end of Loch Laggan.

3. About three miles from the Bridge of Spean the river Roy falls into the Spean. The valley is here well cultivated, and boasts of several good farm-houses, as Blairour and Tirindrish, Dalnapee, Inch, and Keppoch—all perched on the gravel terraces or platforms which here encircle the glen. The chieftains of Keppoch were always distinguished for their bravery, and their followers were among the most hardy of mountaineers. These Macdonalds are by many thought, but apparently under a misapprehension, to have an equally good title to be considered the head of the clan as any of the three rival candidates for that distinction. They held their lands of the clan Chattan,

but refused to acknowledge the right of their superiors, proudly appealing to the claymore instead of the sheepskin. They are now acknowledged as the head of a small colony of respectable Roman Catholic families who inhabit this district; and their mansion contains some relics of the '45, and a few fine pictures brought from the continent. Glengarry's Well of the Heads (see page 124) recounts the murder of the family who occupied the old castle on the river's bank, of which the site is still shewn. The Duke of Cumberland burnt the next house, and the present residence is only the third which the family ever occupied.

For two miles past the Bridge of Roy the channel of the Spean is remarkably deep, confined, and rocky, and its waters descend tumultuously; while the road, at a considerable elevation, passes through a fine oak coppice wood, mingled with birch. On the hill-face, will be observed, high up, a single level line of the same character as the Parallel Roads in Glen Roy. The cultivated region terminates at Tulloch, a substantial farm-house, seven miles distant from Spean Bridge, and about half way to Loch Laggan. A bleak, ascending, and mountain-girt moorland succeeds, occasionally, but slightly, enlivened by a few straggling birches, which retain their place along the banks of the river; and all along innumerable examples present themselves of the scratching, polishing, and rounding off of the rocks, especially opposite the gorge leading to Loch Treig.

4. Loch Laggan is about ten miles long, and apparently a mile in general breadth, embosomed among mountains, the declivities of which are, for the most part, covered to the water's edge with birch, mingled with a large proportion of alder, rowan tree, aspen, and hazel, the latter peculiarly remarkable from its uncommon size; all literally grey with age, and fast yielding to the common decay of nature. On the south side two small islands are seen, with ruins almost crumbled down to the water's edge. The one is called Castle Fergus, which, though it may have been occupied by the Lairds of Cluny, has its erection ascribed to King Fergus, who used this as one of his hunting-seats; but whether the great Fergus II., the founder of the Scottish monarchy, is more than problematical. The adjacent isle is said to have been his dog-kennel, and the height to the south, in front of which the Marquis of Abercorn has erected a large and beautiful shooting-lodge, is called Ardverakie, or Fergus' Hill—a name now familiar to the public—

inasmuch as her Majesty the Queen, "on whose empire the sun never sets," sojourned here with Prince Albert and the Royal Family part of the autumn of 1848.

The Marquis of Abercorn rents these extensive wilds, including Loch Errocht side, as a deer forest, from Cluny Macpherson. A small lake intermediate between the loch just mentioned and Loch Laggan, and which throws into the latter, at its east end, the river Pattoch, is the true summit level of the country, and thus stands above all the other lakes which contribute to the waters of the Tay, Spean, and Spey. While standing on any of the heights hereabouts, the traveller cannot but remark the evidences of the former submergence of the country under the sea, and also perceive how distinct the central chains of gneiss and mica schist mountains are from the group of higher and rougher alps which trend away towards Ben Nevis and Glencoe. Fine white and blue granular limestone abounds all along Loch Laggan and the neighbouring ridges, and hence the fertility which is gradually stealing over the brown wastes.

5. In Glensheira, Mr. Baillie of Kingussie has erected a shooting-lodge, and inclosed grounds about it for plantations, from whence a long line of the old military road from Corryarick may be seen threading its way for miles along the heath. The adjoining farm-steading of Shirramore shews what may be done even at this elevation in the way of gardening, and leaves no excuse to the inn of Dalwhinnie, or any other, even in the highest situation, for wanting good flowers and vegetables.

While resting at the inn with the Gaelic motto above quoted, the tourist should visit, close by, the little "Old Kirk of Laggan," as it is still called. It was the ancient Romish chapel of the district; and, besides a very small altar-stone, it has two little side altars, under rounded arches, with a large round granite font at the south entrance.

At the Bridge of Laggan, about eight miles from the lake, and where there is a small public-house, the Loch Laggan road crosses the Spey by a handsome framed timber bridge of 100 feet span, and proceeds along the north side of that river through the country of the Macphersons, passing the turreted seat of Cluny, chief of the clan, and joining the Perth and Inverness road near the Bridge of Spey, about four miles from Kingussie. The ancestor of the present chief, who figured in the rebellion of 1745, contrived to

secrete himself, after the battle of Culloden, for many years in the immediate neighbourhood of his own castle. He had a small hiding-hole formed, in the salient angle of a wooded hill, of sticks and turf, with so much art, that the soldiers stationed in the district, though they suspected he was in concealment very near them, and of course kept a good look-out, were never able to discover his place of retreat. He at length became so adventurous as frequently to indulge in the pleasures of his family fireside. On one of these occasions the military got intimation of the old gentleman being *unearthed*, and a party were despatched in perfect certainty of securing their prey. Some friendly messenger, observing their advance to the castle, sped with all haste to convey the unwelcome intelligence. Unfortunately, poor Cluny was at the time in a state of insensibility, having indulged over freely in his glass. What was to be done? The soldiers were close at hand. Wrapping him in a plaid, his domestics hastily carried him out, and concealed themselves in the brushwood which skirted the river, till the red-coats, who had just gained the opposite bank, crossed the ford, and proceeded to the castle, when they passed in safety. Shortly after, a prattling member of the clan stumbled by accident through the roof of his chieftain's *bower*. "What! is this you, Cluny?" exclaimed the man in astonishment. "I'm glad to see you."—"But I'm not glad to see you, Donald."—"Surely you don't doubt me?"—"No; but your tongue runs so fast that this story will spread like wildfire, and by to-morrow morning will be in the mouth of every old woman in the parish." The clansman vowed secrecy; but Cluny, knowing his lack of discretion, and averse to adopt the bloody alternative which self preservation suggested, lost no time in changing his abode. His fears were well grounded; for next day his pursuers duly visited his empty lair.

6. *The Parallel Roads of Glen Roy.*

These remarkable formations have been long known to the public; but the question regarding their origin has given rise to a great deal of very violent and ridiculous discussion on the part of those who, zealous for the greatness and antiquity of their Celtic ancestors, have maintained them to be the works of the old Fingalians; while from writers of a different class they

have received much patient examination, and have elicited several important physical observations, and no small degree of ingenious argument. The theory which one class of observers would have us to believe, is, that the roads or terraces in question were formed by human labour for the purposes of hunting; and, on the supposition that the country was anciently covered with forests, that they might have served as avenues for the rapid passages of the huntsmen, and the entrapping or exposure, and more easy slaughter of the deer.

The roads or lines of Glen Roy are composed of sand and gravel: they occupy corresponding elevations on the opposite sides of the glen, and are perfectly horizontal. They are three in number, one above the other, on each side, or, we should more properly say, all round the glen. The average breadth of the terraces or lines is sixty feet. Their course is occasionally interrupted by protruding rocks, or deep chasms; and, in the centre of the valley, there are one or two detached rocks jutting up like islands, which have rings, or platforms, round them of a similar character, and at the same height as the lowest lateral terrace. The surface is inclined, so that standing on any of them, and looking along, the horizontal continuity is less observable than when the eye is cast around the glen, and surveys the whole series at once, when the mathematical regularity of the lines distinctly marked on the hill face, as a friend aptly remarked, like the lines of text and half text on a writing school copy-book, and generally distinguishable by a more decided green, or a verdant tint contrasting with purple heath or grey rock, is certainly very striking. As the enduring memorials of a mighty agency, when the waters covered the face of the earth, they are impressive in their peculiar and seldom paralleled testimony to the changes on our terrestrial sphere. Glen Roy is not the only valley in this neighbourhood in which these singular appearances are to be found. The same or similar lines are more or less perfectly continued over the adjoining valleys of Glen Turit, Glen Gloy, Glen Fintack, and Glen Spean, but not approaching in effect to those of Glen Roy; and, on a more extensive survey, traces of a similar description have been found in the neighbourhood of Loch Laggan, and in the open country towards Fort-William. Further observations have likewise fully established that the interesting phenomena of parallel lines, and alluvial banks, corresponding in height, though

widely separated from each other, are not confined to this corner of the kingdom; but that similar appearances exist in other parts of the Highlands, and in the south of Scotland and England: while in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and America, they occur on such a scale as makes their origin quite intelligible. The whole subject has of late been investigated with extraordinary pains and nicety of observation by Mr. Robert Chambers of Edinburgh. Previously scientific enquirers had confined their speculations on the mode of operation of the acknowledged agent, water, to the theory of a lake, the barrier of which, whether of rock, gravel, or ice, had given way at successive elevations. It remained for Mr. Chambers, from a comprehensive survey of similar indications throughout the kingdom, to adduce the consistent *rationale* of a general marine submergence and subsequent elevation, which may now be received as the correct exposition of these and other similar terraces. Mr. Chambers and D. Milne, Esq., were the first to observe that the terraces often pass from one valley to another, along the ridge or water-shed, at the top which separates them, and that they are prolonged far off into other glens, there never having been in fact any inclosing barriers.

The following is a note of the measurements made by Dr. Macculloch of the relative elevations of the lines of Glen Roy:—

	Feet.
Height of the highest line above Loch Spey	63
Do. above the sea at Spey Mouth	1266
Do. above Keppoch	927
Do. above the highest point eastward of Loch Laggan	432
Do. above Loch Lochy	1182
Do. above Loch Oich	1172
Do. above Loch Ness	1212
Do. above Mouth of Ness	1266
Do. above the sea at Corpach	1262
The lower line is above the bottom of the valley at the top	11
The lower line is above Keppoch	633
The second line is above the lower line	212
The third above the second	82

The most favourable point of view is that first attained approaching from the bridge of Roy, being about four miles distant from the inn. A straight section of the glen, about six miles in extent, is then under the eye. The road is tolerable, so that the tourist may gratify his curiosity at little inconvenience; and as the scene is a fine pastoral valley, the flank-

ing hill sides lofty, steep, and continuous, his expectations will not be disappointed.

7. Should the pedestrian bend his steps through the glen, he will find a snug farm house—Glen Roy—about ten miles from the Bridge of Roy. From this point a walk of about half-a-dozen miles conducts along the rocky course of a rapidly shelving stream, exhibiting a succession of cascades, to Loch Spey—the parent source of the river Spey—a bleak moss-girt sheet of water, imbedded in the central recesses of remote mountain chains, by shepherds and sportsmen only trod. He will get into the Corryarick road—near the lodge of the Glensheira shootings, celebrated for their abundant stock of grouse—two or three miles north from Garvamore, and about eight or nine miles from the Bridge of Laggan public-house.

8. Or if his object be to regain the Great Glen, a pretty stiff hill walk of about six miles from the farm-house of Glen Roy, by a beautifully verdant hollow called Glen Turrit, and across the intervening hills, will bring him to Laggan, at the east end of Loch Lochy.

ROUTE FIRST.—BRANCH E.

FROM INVERGARRY TO LOCH HOURNHEAD AND CLUANY.

The River Garry and Loch Garry, 1.—Loch Quoich. 2.—Loch Hourn and Pass to Shielhouse, 3.—The Rhaebuie Road; Glen Luina, 4.

	Miles.	
Invergarry to Tomandoun	12	12
Loch Hournhead	20	
	32	
Tomandoun to Cluany		10½
		22½

1. The road through Glengarry connects the Great Glen with the head of Loch Hourn, and leaves the former at the comfortable inn of Invergarry. The river Garry is a rapid and troubled stream, which discharges itself into Loch Oich, from Loch Garry (about three miles distant), and which winds through a magnificent amphitheatre of hills clad with birch and scattered firs.

Loch Garry, though comparatively but little known, is among the finest of our mountain lakes ; in length about seven miles : its banks, consisting of a series of low swelling eminences, are clad with birch trees, of late years sorely diminished of their fair proportions ; but which still, though much thinned, extend from the water's edge to the bases, and spread up the ravines and corries of the high receding mountains which form the glen. On advancing beyond a bend, in which the loch terminates at the eastern extremity, the whole extent of its waters and wooded banks comes suddenly into view. They occupy the near portion of a long vista, which is lost in a noble range of lofty but distant mountains, stretching across from Loch Quoich along the head of Glen Luine to Glen Moriston.

2. The first public-house on this road, called Tomandoun, now a tolerable small inn, is twelve miles from Invergarry. Loch Quoich, which occupies a considerable portion of the remaining distance to Loch Hournhead, is likewise a fine sheet of water, but with little wood. It is now embellished at the west end by the mansion of Mr. Edward Ellice, M.P., who has improved his Highland property with judgment and taste. The road continues to ascend till within three miles of Loch Hourn, where, after passing through a barrier of rugged rocks, confusedly heaped together, it suddenly descends from its elevation, and rapidly attains the sea level. The whole distance from Invergarry is strikingly devoid of human habitations. At the end of Loch Hourn a single farm-house appears ; and on the further side of a small burn is the public-house, or inn, close by the loch side.

3. Loch Hourn is a narrow arm of the sea, extending inland about twenty-five miles, through a series of high, rough, and steep hills, and towards its head it becomes almost completely land-locked. It is an excellent herring-fishing station, the fish being generally very plentiful and of superior quality. A road has been opened along a small part of the coast of Knoidart, on the south side of the strait ; but the remainder is barely passable on horseback, the rugged track crossing very considerable elevations, while there is no access, save for pedestrians, to Glen Shiel and the extensive district of Glenelg. The route to the former lies across Corryvarligan, a pass about 2000 feet high, from the top of which the bird's eye view of Glen Shiel and Glen Oundlan, lying parallel to the lower portion of the former,

is very remarkable, and exceedingly picturesque. The glens diverge nearly at right angles from one another; both are straight, narrow, and precipitous; their sides bald and rocky, or scantily covered with heath, and the summits sharp and serrated. We have been led to particularize this sequestered scene, because it occurs on a route we would recommend to tourists, viz., to ascend Glen Garry to Loch Hournhead, and thence strike across, as above pointed out, by the pass of Corry-varligan, to the inn of Shielhouse, at the head of Loch Duich; and from thence to proceed back to the Great Glen by Glen Shiel and Glen Moriston. In proceeding to Shielhouse, we direct our course along Glen Oundlan, the whole distance from Loch Hournhead requiring about five hours' smart walking.

4. The importance of the road from Invergarry to Loch Hourn is enhanced by the Rhaebuie road from Tomandoun in Glen Garry to Cluany in Glen Moriston, connecting the two glens, and affording a more ready access for the large droves of cattle from Skye and the west coast of the country on their way to the southern markets, to the Loch Laggan road, and thence to Dalwhinnie. But this road possesses few attractions; for tediousness, it may fairly compete with any of equal length in the Highlands; it is ten miles and a half long; and crossing from Tomandoun into Glen Luine, (lying nearly parallel with Glens Moriston and Garry, and falling into the former at Doe Bridge,) it makes a tiresome ascent along the northern side of that valley. But the traveller's labour is almost repaid by the magnificence of the upper and precipitous part of Mam Cluany, passing at the base of which the Rhaebuie joins the Glen Moriston road a little to the east of the inn of Cluany.

Glen Luine is a sequestered pastoral valley, watered by a sluggish and tortuous stream, which occasionally spreads out its waters into a small marshy loch. Glen Garry was purchased, on the sale of the Glengarry estates, by Lord Ward, and Glen Quoich by Edward Ellice junior, Esq., M.P., the chief only retaining the property of Knoidart.

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ROUTE FIRST.—BRANCH F.

FROM INVERMORISTON TO KYLE RHEA AND KYLE AKIN.

Glen Moriston, 1.—Loch Cluany; Cluany Inn; Glen Shiel, 2.—Battle of Glen Shiel, 3.—Subterranean Structure; Glen Shiel, 4.—Loch Duich; Shielhouse to Kyle Akin, 5.—Village of Dornie; Ellandonan Castle, 6.—Lochalsh, 7.—Falls of Glomak, 8.—To Loch Affrick and Strathglass, foot-note.—Glenelg, 9.—Duncs or Burghs in Glenelg, 10.

	Miles.
Invermoriston to Torgoil	8½
Cluany	16
Shielhouse	11¾
Kyle Rhea	11½
	47¾
Shielhouse	36¼
Dornie	10
Kyle Akin	10
	56¼

THE road from Invermoriston to Shielhouse, which forms the great line of communication between the north-western and the eastern coasts of Inverness-shire, is 36¼ miles in length: at Shielhouse it separates into two branches, leading respectively to Kyle Akin and Kyle Rhea, the two ferries communicating with the island of Skye.

1. The lower portion of Glen Moriston is exceedingly beautiful. On every side the eye ranges over an uninterrupted forest, mantling alike the bottom of the valley and the expanded mountain sides; the smiling livery of the birch—frequently diversified and contrasted with the dark and sombre hues of aged and majestic pines. There are but two or three habitations to break upon the woodland solitude, thus pleasingly contrasting with Glen Urquhart. Invermoriston House, (J. M. Grant,) a rather old mansion, near Loch Ness side, is hemmed in by an amphitheatre of hills, the terminal ones crowned by precipitous frontlets of rock. Behind it there is a comfortable small inn. Between them the river forms a waterfall, worthy of a visit. The course of the lower section of the river Moriston is frequently impetuous and headlong; at times dashing with violence from side to side of the deep, narrow, and rocky channel, which in the course of ages it has worn for itself; at

others escaping, tormented and foaming, from such confined passage, it encloses in its arms some wooded islet or isolated rock, where the aged pine holds undisputed sway, and, luxuriating in its undisturbed freedom, shoots its weather-beaten stem into a thousand fantastic shapes; or it ripples quietly alongst low birchen-clad banks; and thus many of the reaches of river scenery, amidst close embowering, but far extending trees, are of surpassing beauty.

At Torgoil, where there is a respectable public-house, the road crosses the river Moriston by a handsome granite bridge. Between the fifth and sixth mile above Torgoil Bridge, and about two miles from the end of Loch Cluany, we recross the river at Doe Bridge, where we meet with uncommonly fine specimens of the fir and aspen.

In the recesses of Corriegoe, the high group of hills to the north, intermediate between this glen and Strathglass, is the cave where Prince Charles was secreted for several weeks by its bandit occupants, proof against the tempting reward offered for his head: and three miles above Torgoil, close by the road-side, is the spot where Mackenzie, with considerable anxiety, even in the agonies of death, for his unfortunate master, diverted for a while pursuit from the royal fugitive, by feigning to be the Prince.

2. Loch Cluany presents no interesting features. The mountain, on the south side, rises rather abruptly from the water, and a few trees are scattered along its face: occasional mossy promontories, projecting into the loch, complete the character of this sheet of water. Cluany, distant about twenty-five miles from Invermoriston, is as good a house as could be expected, where the chief customers are drovers: to them travellers are in a great measure indebted for the goodness of the stabling on these roads, although, in some places, by way of making the most of a thing, the stable is not divided into stalls, drovers' ponies being accommodating animals, who, like their masters, can sleep three in a bed. From the east end of Loch Cluany to about four miles beyond the inn, the glen is pretty level, and barren without grandeur: here it becomes extremely narrow; and, passing a low, rocky barrier, we suddenly find the waters and the road descending into Glen Shiel, through a narrow pass, between mountain walls of rock. The traveller will be struck by the rugged and conical character of the mountains

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in this quarter, and his attention will be particularly attracted by two singularly sharp-peaked hills, at that part of the descent where the glen bends towards Loch Duich. The upper portions of Glen Moriston and Glen Shiel are destitute of trees and houses of any kind: the lower part of the Water of Shiel is skirted with alders, and a few smoky dingy hovels.

3. Glen Shiel was the scene of a skirmish in 1719, which put a speedy termination to an insurrection then attempted in favour of the exiled Stuarts. It was very trifling, and got up by the Marquis of Tullibardine and the Earls of Seaforth and Marischal, in consequence of an invasion of England projected by the court of Spain, with the view of restoring the Stuart family, and resolved on by the advice of Cardinal Alberoni. At Cadiz, an armament was prepared, consisting of a number of transports, on board of which 6000 troops and 12,000 stand of arms were embarked, and provided with a convoy of ten ships of the line and several frigates, the command of which force was entrusted to the Duke of Ormond. The above-mentioned nobleman having landed in the Western Islands of Scotland, with several gentlemen who had been attainted in 1716, and 300 Spaniards, endeavoured to excite the Clans to arms, but with little effect. They were encountered in Glen Shiel by General Wightman, commander of the forces in the north, who had hastened from Inverness, on the first news of the rising, with his troops, which had then been recently reinforced by a body of 2000 Dutch soldiers. The insurgent Highlanders, after a short resistance, fled to the hills; the Spaniards were made prisoners; and the Spanish squadron having been driven back by a storm, the whole plan was completely frustrated. A small cascade will be observed on the left hand, in descending the glen, which indicates the scene of the skirmish; and a patch of nettles is pointed out by the country people as the spot where, according to their accounts, a colonel in the Dutch service fell.

4. About a mile and a half from the inn of Shielhouse, there is a remarkable subterranean cavern close by the road-side. In entering it is necessary to crawl on all-fours, but it quickly rises to the height of eight feet, and becomes broad enough to admit of the advance of two people abreast. The bottom is paved, and the sides lined with large flag-stones, and it is also roofed with long slabs resting upon strong cross stone rafters. This structure somewhat resembles what are called, in the

Orkneys, subterranean Picts' Houses, and may perhaps have been connected with some ancient Dune or burgh. The inn of Shielhouse does not realize the expectations formed from its exterior, the accommodation being inconveniently confined. From the head of Loch Duich, where the inn is situated, the appearance of Glen Shiel is strange indeed. The mountains rise almost perpendicularly, but with a steep unvarying concave acclivity, like the side of a tent, and terminating in detached pinnacles. The opposing ranges rise so near each other, that but a very narrow verdant stripe of meadow grass separates their respective bases. This rich connecting band forms a strong contrast with the bright purple of the hills, the prevailing colour as high as the hardy heath can vegetate, which, gradually thinning, gives place to grey, rocky, and barren summits. The best point of view will be found on the east side of the glen, on the face of the hill, immediately above the bridge which the Kyle Akin road crosses.

5. Loch Duich is a beautiful arm of the sea, of great depth, running up along the west side of Kintail. Its banks on the east side are formed by mountains rising from the water, frequently in rocky and often precipitous acclivities, but more gently sloping, and full of gentle undulations on the other, singularly smooth, and carpeted with a soft velvet-like emerald verdure, variegated with trees below, and rocks above. From the summits of Scuir Ouran and Scuir-na-Carnich, the two very high hills of the range extending from Kintail along the north side of Glen Shiel, conspicuous from Shielhouse, on a clear day, the Trafalgar monument at Forres may be distinguished.

Of the two roads leading to Skye, that by Kyle Rhea is about five miles the shorter, to the point of junction near Broadford ; but the Kyle Akin road is much more agreeable, being more level, and the scenery more interesting ; it has the disadvantage, however, of crossing an additional ferry.

The Kyle Akin road, on leaving Shielhouse, makes a considerable circuit round an inlet of Loch Duich ; and, crossing the water of Crowe, at the mouth of Glen Liechk, shortly afterwards passes the church and manse of Kintail. The length of the road from Shielhouse to Kyle Akin is about twenty miles, and it is divided into two nearly equal portions, by the ferry of Dornie. Leaving the manse, the road leads above the house of Inverinat, beautifully embosomed in ascending ash woods and

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arable fields; and, owing to the precipitous nature of the ground, it continues to ascend pretty high, along the face of the hill; but the views it commands are very fine, especially when, as we approach Dornie, the hills of Skye come in sight. The ravines and crevices of the rocks are partially filled with ash and other trees, and on the slopes are numerous drystone huts, mean enough, no doubt, but their accompanying patches of cultivated ground are welcome and agreeable to the eye.

6. Dornie is a small fishing village of about two score of houses and huts, built where a smaller loch (Long) branches off from Loch Duich, and on the south side of the connecting strait. Close by the village are the ruins of Ellandonan Castle, the ancient seat of the Mackenzies of Seaforth. They stand on a rocky islet, and are surrounded by the sea at flood-tide; the castle consisted of a massive square keep about 60 feet high, only one side of which remains entire. On two sides of this keep are the ruins of other buildings, the landward part of the islet forming a small natural glacis, in which rises up a spring of fresh water, surrounded by strong walls, which, extending to the castle, afforded the inmates safe access, at all times, to the well. The best view of Loch Duich with Ellandonan and Dornie is obtained from the north side of the ferry—the village and ruin forming the fore, and the precipitous clustered peaks of Glen Shiel the back ground. There are none but small public-houses in Dornie.

Ellandonan Castle was built on the site of an old vitrified fort by Alexander II. of Scotland, as an "overband" against the Danes and Norwegians. After the battle of the Largs, Alexander III. appointed Coline Fitzgerald, an Irish gentleman who fought under his banners at that engagement, to be constable of the castle. Coline married the only daughter of Kenneth Matheson, former constable, after whom his son was named Kenneth, and his descendants were called Mackennich, *anglice* Mackenzie. Such, at least, is the tradition among the clan.

7. From Dornie the road runs along a stripe of meadow land bordering the shore of Lochalsh, and a range of verdant hills. About one and a half mile onwards, at the Kirkton of Lochalsh (formed by the church, school-house, a farm-house, and some huts), the road to Strome Ferry on Loch Carron ascends to the right. At the bend of the coast, between Kyle

Rhea and Kyle Akin, rounding a series of high precipitous cliffs faced with clambering ash, a fine semicircular bay opens to view, in the centre of which, close by the water's edge, stands the house of Balmacara (Lillingstone), a bow-windowed structure, with long irregular wings. Behind it rises a spacious elevated recess, laid out in well-cultivated fields, chequered with hardwood, and girt with beautiful, high, broadly conical, and slightly spiral hills of smooth verdant surface. Here there is a post-office and small inn. Towards the top of the ascent, a road branches off on the right, over sandstone ridges rather pleasingly wooded and cultivated, to the fishing village of Plockton, about five miles from Balmacara : a collection of about a hundred stone-walled, and heather-thatched, and a few slated houses, with government manse and church, and free church, at the head of a deeply indented little bay at the opening of Loch Carron, and opposite Kishorn.

8. The vicinity of Shielhouse is distinguished by the highest waterfall in the Highlands—that of Glomak, about eight miles distant from Shielhouse, on a stream which descends from the head of Strath Affrick to the Elchaig, running into Loch Long. It can be approached on Highland ponies, and has been so frequently by ladies, but walking is preferable, and it may be easily reached in three and a-half hours. The path leads from the Bridge of Linassie which crosses the Water of Crowe at the head of Little Loch Duich, as the deep bay on the east side of the head of the loch on which stands the church and manse of Kintail is called, and proceeds on the north side of the water, beyond two other glens which open on the right, and straight onwards alongst, and finally above the water-course along the face of a steep but beautifully green ravine, seamed with rivulets; proceeding throughout in almost a straight line from Linassie to a narrow pass at the head of the ravine, about four miles from that place. From the top of the pass continuing the same line of direction, nearly north-east across an elevated moorland, and to the south of a little eminence, the traveller will find himself above the water just at the top of the fall. The Water of Glomak issues from a series of three small lochs imbedded amidst a grand group of abrupt serrated mountains, Ben Attow at the head, presenting a magnificent sheeted precipice, almost vertical, and seemingly not less than a couple of thousand feet in height. The hollow in which they

lie communicates with, and lies at right angles with Strath Affrick, which stretches easterly to Strathglass; a noble opening through the loftiest mountain ranges in the country, and which, in its lower portion, embraces the pine-girt waters of Lochs Affrick and Benneveian. The mountains which form its northern boundary, terminate in Scuir-na-Caeran, a vast mountain with several compressed summits, and marked by a precipitous-sided corry at the top. At some miles distance to the north, the Elchaig conducts its waters to Loch Long, through a deeply troughed valley, lined on the north by high and very steep hills passing above into a great rocky expanse, and nearly parallel with Strath Affrick. Between the lower hills skirting the Elchaig, and Scuir-na-Caeran, extends an ascending and elevated moorland plain, which the Glomak passes over, till it encounters the granite barrier of Glen Elchaig, through which it accomplishes its descent by a tremendous ravine, into which it plunges at once in the great waterfall of Glomak. Approaching from Shielhouse, a steep descent from the height above, of perhaps 400 feet, ushers us on the margin of the water, and on the moorland above the fall. The water slants a little along the rock from which it first starts, and then falls almost perpendicularly at one corner of the face of a square abyss flanked by black, smooth mural rocks richly tinted with bright verdure. About midway it lights on a ledge, and is parted, by a projection of rock, into two.* The depth of the whole has been plumbed and found to be of the great extent of 350 feet. The ravine below is truly stupendous, and it cannot be under 700 or 800 feet deep. At the bottom, for perhaps a couple of hundred feet, walled with rock; the acclivities above very abrupt, all but vertical, and of a fine ferny green, but, like the mountain wastes around, entirely destitute of trees. The rapidly inclined lines of the inflections of the ravine interlace each other, quite concealing the water, but leading the eye down almost to the channel of Elchaig about two miles off,—the lofty, precipitous, and rocky further sides of which bound the view. Footmarks, admitting a cautious descent, will be found conducting from the head of the fall to the green summit of a small projecting rock on the west side, marked by a dwarf birch and rowan tree about opposite the middle of the fall, but so near, that the bottom can be seen only from the brink. From this

* The rock over which the water plunges is a dyke of granite or porphyry.

point the water is seen to fall as from the lip of the rock, the rapid at the top, comprising about 50 perpendicular feet of the whole height, being concealed from view. The sky line of rock is seen from the grassy point as farther back than the rocky eminences on either hand, which may be about 200 yards apart, and the mountains beyond are not at all visible. The apparent height looks just about double that of Foyers; but estimating the length of the descent to the green point, the larger ascertained dimensions are obviously correct. The body of water is considerably less than that of Foyers,—and thus, unless in speat, the volume of water is disproportioned to the great scale of the precipitous rocks. The descent to the point is not unattended with a sense of danger, but ladies make it out. Objects so fraught with dizzying suggestions congregated so alarmingly close to the spectator, stun and overpower, and conspire to give a greater impression of insecurity than need be. To approach the fall from the Elchaig is no easy matter, and requires to wade at times in the channel of the stream.*

* A few directions may here be acceptable, in case of the pedestrian wishing to continue his route to Loch Affrick and Strathglass. The way lies by the sources of the Glomak, which stream, after traversing a tract of broken spongy moss, he fords about 200 yards below the lowest little loch already alluded to, and follows a faint and rough tract on the face of the opposite hill. At the head of the uppermost loch, which is about a mile long, and called the Loch of the Bealach, the water shears to the east through a wide strath which opens on rounding the hill. A pass will be observed on the hills which flank the glen he is about leaving on the opposite side: this leads by Glen Liechk on the farther side of the hills into Kintail, and is in the line which a road, if ever formed, as once intended, between Strathglass and Kintail, will follow. In the bend of the mountains a solitary shieling will be observed for tending yeld cattle and a flock of goats for a few months of the year, certainly as far removed from haunts of men as could well be. Hence the path, which is much interrupted, keeps down the centre of the fine wide and straight strath. About half-way to Loch Affrick place is given to a spacious, smooth moorland, by the opening up on the south of two wide glens leading through the massive mountains to Cluany in Glen Moriston, and by Glen Liechk into Kintail. Here will be found a solitary shepherd's bothie, Aultbae, where a refreshing bowl of milk will prove acceptable. The ground hitherto traversed since leaving the Glomak Water, is called Greenivie. Its ample sides descend in beautifully curved sweeps. At Aultbae, which is about midway, and perhaps six miles from Loch Affrick, Strath Affrick, a continuation of and in the same line with Greenivie, properly commences; and it does so in a splendid level meadow, fully two miles in length, from which in part the mountains spring at once without broken ground. Nearing the lake, broken skirting eminences nearly fill up the bottom. The outlines of the mountains are elongated and smooth, and their surface affords the finest pasture for sheep. At Coulivie or Annamulloch, two shepherd's houses, on opposite sides of the river, not far from where it joins the lake, and quite at the base of the high impending mountains, the traveller will be fain, after a ten or twelve hours' walk from Shielhouse, to take up his quarters for the night, an intrusion with which the inmates lay their account. In either, he will find a very snugly boxed and floored apartment, fitted up for the occasional accommodation of sportsmen, good English blankets, and substantial accessories for the inner man, simple but good of their kind. The distance hence to Struy, in Strathglass, which is twenty miles from Inverness, is about twenty-six miles. There is a boat on each of the lochs, perhaps not at hand, but which may be ensured by timeous intimation over night.

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9. We now return to Shielhouse, to describe the road thence to Kyle Rhea. On leaving the inn, it almost immediately begins the very laborious ascent of Mam Ratachan; in climbing and descending which nearly two-thirds of the whole way (eleven miles and a half) are employed. Having surmounted it, we find ourselves descending into Glenelg, a valley quite destitute of trees, except towards the sea; but in their stead its sides, even to the summit of the hills, are covered with rich green pasture; and the sudden view of the glen and of the sea, and the hills of Skye beyond, is impressively superb. In the glen are a colony of huts and a farm-house, and at the opening of it, the manse, and ruins of Bernera Barracks, one of the military stations established in the Highlands by the Hanoverian Government, after the rebellions of 1715 and 1745, with the Kirkton of Glenelg. Bernera Barracks consisted of two parallel houses, capable of accommodating about two companies of soldiers. They are rather more than a mile distant from the ferry. Kirkton of Glenelg is a respectable village, picturesquely situated on a small bay, and contains a principal street of slated houses, and is embellished with trees and planting. The district of Glenelg consists of two glens—Glen More, just described, and Glen Beg. The whole, with the estate of Glen Shiel, belongs to James Evan Baillie, Esq., proprietor of other large estates in Inverness-shire.

10. In Glen Beg of Glenelg are two ancient Burghs or Dunes, as these interesting circular buildings are generally called, distant about seven miles from Bernera. They measure, one about thirty (apparently six or eight feet less than the original height) and the other twenty-five feet high, and thirty-three and thirty feet inside, and fifty-seven and fifty-four feet outside diameter. The walls are double, and ten feet thick, curved on the outer side and bulging out at the top, and they contain tiers of galleries two-and-a-half feet wide and six feet high—in one of the dunes four in succession, in the other only two, the higher galleries contracting almost to a single wall. Communication between the galleries is by openings three feet wide and five high. The flooring of the galleries is of large

Otherwise the wayfarer must plod his way along the rough track on the north side; but we can promise him that he will find much to beguile the time, in the grandeur and severe beauty of these lakes, and of the very imposing mountain masses in whose bosom they repose. Their features will be found fully detailed in our article on Strathglass (Route IV. Branch A). From the south side of Loch Affrick, a track slants across the hill to Geusachan, at the head of Strathglass, about eight miles off.

flags stretching across both walls, and thus strengthening the building. The entrance is by a low doorway, which could be blocked up by a stone dropped from overhead, so as to be perfectly secured from attack; and to one of them there was a subterraneous passage which has been recently filled up. Though no cement is used, the building is so closely joined that it could not be scaled; and thus these structures formed places of very safe temporary retreat, in case of hostile invasion. Unfortunately these interesting edifices have been much dilapidated for the sake of the stones, and scarcely half is standing of the most entire. The foundations of a third remain, and there are traces of two more in the larger valley. Glen Beg, in which these structures are situated, is a very beautiful strath, confined at the entrance by abrupt and rocky hills, and afterwards widening out, having a fine stream rolling through it, and pleasingly diversified with wood. The dunes now referred to are unquestionably the most entire in the southern parts of the Highlands. We particularly recommend tourists not to omit the opportunity of seeing these singular buildings when in their neighbourhood, for they are abundantly deserving of inspection. An eminent Danish antiquary, who lately visited them, informs us, that he considers them as very ancient *Celtic* structures, and not the work of *Scandinavians*.

SECTION IV.

TOWN OF INVERNESS.

Inns, Steamers, &c.; Objects worthy of Observation: Beauty of the Scenery, 1.—Character of the Surrounding Country, 2.—Origin of the Name; Situation; Islands in the Ness, 3.—Stone Bridge, 4.—Streets, 5.—Jail, 6.—Town-house, 7.—Population; Manufactures; Trade, 8.—Churches, 9.—Academy; Schools; Infirmary, 10. Improvements; Public Charities; Walks; Country Seats, 11.—Antiquity of Inverness, 12.—Castles of Inverness; Murder of King Duncan, 13.—History of the Castle; Duke of Gordon, Heritable Keeper; Old Fort-George, 14.—The Burgh Charters, 15.—Early disturbed State; Ancient Commerce, 16.—Royal Visits; Queen Mary's Visits, 17.—Cromwell's Fort, 18.—Form of Architecture, 19.—Ancient Politics and Manners, 20.—Magistracy, 21.—Spirit of Improvement, 22.

Principal Hotels.

Caledonian (Mr. Spinks), No. 17, Church Street; Union, 18 High Street. Both these are most commodious establishments, where every comfort and luxury can be had. Private Royal (Miss M'Donald), 81–2 Church Street; Vine (Thomas Mackenzie), 7 Church Street; Commercial (Mrs. Napier), Castle Wynd. On the west side of the river Ness, there are the Glenalbyn (Harcomb), Huntly Street; Star, Grant Street (Merkinch); Caledonian Inn, Canal Bridge (Muirtown).

The principal Lodging-houses are—Mr. Tait's, 19 Church Street; Mrs. Hardie's, 18 Douglas Row; Mrs. M'Donald's, 14 Douglas Row; Mrs. Robert Fraser's, 46 Church Street; Miss M'Rae, 70 Church Street; Mrs. More's, Castle Wynd; Miss Kennedy, 9 Bank Street; Mrs. M'Kenzie's, Academy Street; Mr. Maclean's, Bridge Street; Mr. John Clark's, Margaret Street; Mrs. Cameron, 27 Rose Street; Mr. Adam M'Donald, confectioner, (Peacock) No. 32, High Street; &c.: and, during the shooting season, the Caledonian and Union and Royal Hotels retain a number of rooms in the houses of private families, in which visitors may be accommodated with beds, and with or without board as they incline.

Newspapers.

Inverness Courier office, No. 12, Bank Lane.
„ Advertiser office, 18, Inglis Street.

Banks.

Caledonian and Savings, High Street; British Linen Company, High Street; Bank of Scotland, Bank Street; National, Church Street; Commercial Bank of Scotland, Church Street; North of Scotland, Academy Street.

Post Office, 27 High Street.—*Police Office*, 36 Bridge Street.

Booksellers.

James Smith, 49 High Street; Kenneth Douglas, 2 High Street; D. Morrison, 1 Church Street; C. Keith, 21 Church Street; D. Fraser, Castle Street.

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Principal Drapers.

Tartan Warehouse, D. M'Dougal, 12 High Street; Andrew Smith, 20 High Street; Donald Fraser, 48 High Street; D. M'Lennan, 41 High Street; D. Matheson, 6 Castle Street. Inverness Woollen Manufactory at Holm—shop, No. 4, Bridge Street.

Coaches.

The Post-Office changes often disturb the *mail* hours.

1. Mail to Perth (4 horses), leaves the Caledonian Hotel and Union Hotel every evening at a quarter to 7 o'clock, and arrives from the south at these Inns, at 6 A.M. Fares—£2 : 5s. inside, and 32s. outside.

2. Aberdeen Mail—leaves the Caledonian and Union Hotels every afternoon at 2 o'clock, and arrives every evening at half-past 7. Four horses. Fares—inside, £2; outside, 21s.

3. North Mail, by Beauly, Dingwall, Tain, Dornoch, to Thurso in Caithness—leaves Caledonian Hotel at ¼ past 6 o'clock in the morning, and arrives at 5 P.M., in time to join the Perth Mail. Four horses. Fares—inside, £2 : 11 : 6; outside, £1 : 17 : 6; and to Tain, 20s. and 14s.

4. The Duke of Wellington—day stage-coach, 4 horses—in connexion with the Highland or Perth Mail—leaves the Caledonian Hotel every lawful morning, from April to the end of November, at 6 o'clock A.M., and arrives from Perth at 6 P.M. Fares—inside, 35s.; outside, 25s.

5. The Defiance—daily stage-coach, 4 horses—leaves the Caledonian Hotel, for Nairn, Forres, Elgin, Fochabers, Huntly, and Aberdeen, every lawful morning, at 6 o'clock A.M., and arrives from Aberdeen, at half-past 6 o'clock P.M. Fares—inside, £2; outside, £1 : 2s.

6. The Star—daily stage-coach, 4 horses—leaves Caledonian Hotel for Nairn, Forres, and Elgin, at 4 o'clock P. M. every lawful day, and stops at Elgin, where it arrives at 9 P. M. that night. Another coach, in connexion with it, proceeds on from Elgin every morning at 7 A.M. for Aberdeen; and the Star leaves Elgin every morning at 7 A.M. for Inverness, which it reaches at half-past 12 o'clock P.M. Fares—inside, 16s.; outside, 10s. 6d.

7. The Caberfeigh—stage-coach, 2 horses—leaves Caledonian Hotel, every day in summer, at 3 o'clock for Dingwall (via *Kessock Ferry*) and Strathpeffer, and reaches the Spa Hotel there at 6 P.M. It leaves Strathpeffer at 8 o'clock every morning, and arrives at Inverness at 11 A.M. Fares—inside, 10s.; outside 6s.

8. The Duke of Wellington to Tain starts at 6 A.M., and from Tain at 3 P.M.; but either this or the Caberfeigh is likely to be discontinued, or to go only to Strathpeffer *via Beauly*.

Steamers.

1. The North Star, sails from the Thornbush Pier, Inverness, for London, every alternate Monday; and from London for Inverness every other Monday; average length of passage sixty-three hours. Fares—cabin, £3 : 10s.; forecastle, £2 : 5s. *N.B.*—Calls at Chanonry Point, Invergordon, Cromarty, Findhorn, Burgh-head, Banff, and Aberdeen.

2. The Duke of Richmond sails from Kessock Ferry roadstead for Leith every Monday morning, and the Queen on Thursday evening, calling at the same ports as the North Star; and they leave Leith on their return voyages every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Fares—cabin, 16s.; forecastle, 8s.

3. The Maid of Morven leaves Kessock Ferry every Monday and Thursday morning, for the ports in the Moray Firth above named, and

the Little Ferry in Sutherlandshire, and returns every succeeding day. Fares—to Burgh-head, 5s. and 3s. 6d.; to Little Ferry, 10s. and 5s.

4. The Glasgow Steamers by the Caledonian Canal.—Messrs. G. and J. Burns of Glasgow put on in summer a line of swift steamers, by which there is a daily sailing to and from Glasgow and Oban, Fort-William, Corpach, and Inverness; and to and from Oban, Tobermory, Staffa and Iona, and Glencoe. Fares to Glasgow—cabin, £1; forecastle, 8s. Goods Boats (Cygnet and Lapwing) ply at cheaper rates.

N.B.—Coaches and Breaks, or Omnibuses, attend from the Caledonian and Union Hotels, to convey passengers to and from the steamers on their departure and arrival, charging 1s. for every passenger; and the heavy goods and luggage are conveyed by carts, which are always in waiting. The steam offices are 9 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, and in Church Street, at the Thornbush Pier and Kessock Ferry, Inverness, where the advertisements, which are occasionally altered, may be seen.

Carriers of goods leave Inverness, twice a-week, for Beauly, Dingwall, Invergordon, and Fort-George; and once a-week to Fort-Augustus, Kingussie, Nairn, and Forres; and once a fortnight, or when the weather permits and there is employment, to Perth, Kintail, Strathglass, Loch Carron, and Skye; but in the interior of the country no public carriers can be reckoned upon except in the vicinity of the great roads; and families and sportsmen, in the remoter districts, usually keep pony-cars, or Whitechapel-carts, for fetching home parcels and provisions.

A passage-boat plies every Tuesday and Friday between Inverness and Fortrose, (fare 3d.); and in summer another goes, on these days, between Inverness and Avoch.

The subjoined note gives ample information as to the cost of living in Inverness, and the same prices and rents prevail (perhaps a shade lower in the country and smaller towns) throughout the Highlands.*

* Good beef sells at 5d. to 7d. per imperial lb.; mutton from 4d. to 6d.; veal, the quality of which is, however, seldom superior, 5d. to 6d.; pork, (of which no great quantity is exposed, on account of the demand for cured pork for export and shipping,) 3½d. to 4½d. There is an abundant supply of excellent haddocks, which sell at from three to a dozen for 6d.; good whitings about the same price; cod, from 3d. to 1s. a-piece, according to the size and quantity; superior skate, 3d. to 9d. each. Herrings vary much in price, as boats only occasionally leave the fishery ground to dispose of this fish so far up the Firth. They sell at from ten to fifty for 6d. Salmon are as high as 1s. to 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. per lb.; the salmon-fishers being under an engagement to send almost all that may be caught to the London market. Grilse sell for 4d. or 6d. per lb. The price of oatmeal is 15s. to 20s. per boll, of 10 imperial stones, and the same for a quarter of Angus or potato oats; of flour, about 46s. per sack of 280 lbs.; potatoes, 8s. to 16s. a boll; hay, 6d. to 1s. a stone. Whisky is sold at 7s. to 10s. the imperial gallon; very good strong ale at 17s. or 18s. an anker, which will run five dozen of bottles; table beer half that sum. Fresh butter sells at 10d. per lb.; salt butter at 16s. to 21s. per stone of 23 lbs., and 16 oz. to the lb. Honey, in the comb, at 6d. to 1s. per lb. Warm milk at 1d., and skim-milk at a halfpenny the English pint. A pair of fowls cost 2s. to 2s. 6d.; but they are not so large or plumply fed as those to be seen in the southern markets. A pair of chickens 8d. to 1s. 6d.; of ducks, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d.; geese and turkeys bring 2s. 6d. to 5s.; grouse, 1s. to 3s. 6d. a brace; hares, 1s. 3d. to 2s. each; rabbits, 8d. a pair. Shop goods sell pretty much as in other provincial towns. House rents are moderate, averaging from £10 to £50, and shops the same. The wages of housemaids are 30s. to £3 per half-year; average, £2. There are generally several country houses to let in the neighbourhood of Inverness, at from £30 to £200 a-year, furnished and unfurnished, and with garden-ground, offices, and grass parks, and other accommodations. The charges of the principal inns in Inverness are much the same as those in Edinburgh.

List of Objects and Scenes in and about Inverness, described in this work, worthy of being visited by Strangers.

Places.	Distance and direction from Town.
Castle Hill, County Buildings, Observatory, Godsman's Walk, Ness Islands, Cromwell's Fort. Town Hall, Infirmary, Academy, Bell's Institution, High Church, West Church, Episcopal and Roman Catholic Chapels.	
Craig Phadrick (a vitrified fort)	2 miles West.
Basin and entrance of the Caledonian Canal, and monument at Clachnaharry	1½ W.
Tomnahurich, or Hill of the Fairies	1 S.W.
Torvain Hill (field of battle)	1 S.W.
Kessock Ferry	1 N.
Ord Hill of Kessock (a vitrified fort)	2 N.
Druidical temple of Leys, and Leys Castle	2½ S.
Culloden Moor (field of battle)	5 S.E.
Stone monuments at Clava	6 S.E.
Castle Stewart	6 E.
Castle Dalcross	8 E.
Fort-George	12 E.
Fortrose and ruins of the Cathedral of Ross	12 N.E.
Cawdor Castle	15 E.
Loch Ness	7 S.W.
Roman station at Bona, Loch Dochfour	7 S.W.
Glen Urquhart and Castle	14 to 20 S.W.
Falls of Foyers	19 S.W.
The Aird	8 to 16 W.
Beauly Priory	12 W.
Falls of Kilmorack	12 to 15 W.

And return by Aigas Ferry, which is 15 or 16 miles from Inverness; or by Erchless and Struy Bridge, 4 miles farther.

(BEFORE MACBETH'S CASTLE.)

King Duncan. This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses.
Banquo. ——This guest of summer,
The temple-haunting martlet, does approve,
By his loved mansionry, that the heaven's breath
Smells wooingly here: no jutty, frieze, buttress,
Nor coigne of vantage, but this bird hath made
His pendent bed and procreant cradle: Where they
Most breed and haunt, I have observed the air
Is delicate. *Macbeth, Act I. Scene VI.*

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1. INVERNESS, the largest town in the Highlands, and long regarded as the northern capital—its history, also, forming a prominent part in the scanty measure of information that has reached us of the annals of the Highlanders in general—merits

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a separate description ; more especially as this town is the most convenient central point from which to proceed in visiting most of the interesting scenes which it is the object of this work to delineate.

"Inverness has been strangely underrated." So observes Dr. Macculloch (Letters on the Highlands, vol. i.), who has even gone the length of drawing a comparison between the beauties of its neighbourhood and that of Edinburgh. "The Firth of Forth must yield the palm to the Moray Firth, the surrounding country must yield altogether, and Inverness must take the highest rank. Everything is done, too, for Inverness that can be effected by wood and cultivation ; the characters of which, here, have altogether a richness, a variety, and a freedom, which we miss round Edinburgh. The mountain screens are finer, more various, and more near. Each outlet is different from the others, and each is beautiful ; whether we proceed towards Fort-George or towards Moy, or enter the valley of the Ness, or skirt the shores of the Beauly Firth ; while a short and commodious ferry wafts us to the lovely country opposite, rich with wood, and country seats, and cultivation. It is the boast, also, of Inverness to unite two opposed qualities, and each in the greatest perfection : the characters of a rich open lowland country with those of the wildest alpine scenery, both, also, being close at hand, and in many places intermixed ; while to all this is added a series of maritime landscape not often equalled."

2. Inverness stands on a plain at the meeting of three large openings ; namely, the basins of the Moray and Beauly Firths, and the great glen of Albyn, itself also once the channel of the sea, and still covered throughout more than half of its surface with the waters of a chain of inland lakes. The mountains which skirt and hem in Loch Ness diverge at its eastern extremity, and those on the south side, assuming an easterly direction, towards Nairnshire, and finally subsiding into a smooth, inclined, and unbroken ridge nearly twenty miles long, leave as the termination of the Great Glen, a wide champaign country, which extends to the shores of the Moray Firth. On the north side of the valley the mountains gradually give place to round-backed hills, with tabular summits and rocky sides, which approach within a mile of Inverness, terminating in the celebrated vitrified fort of Craig Phadrick, where they are cut across by the waters of the sea as these proceed from the main firth to

fill the inner basin of the Loch or Firth of Beauly; but, resuming their course on the Ross-shire coast, the same line of hills, softened in feature, is prolonged along the edge of the sea towards Fortrose and the Sutors of Cromarty. Standing thus on a beautiful plain, skirted by variously shaped hills, which are diversified with hanging woods, cultivated fields, and protruding frontlets of rock, Inverness still farther possesses the advantage of having a bank of terraced ground rising behind it on the southern side of the town which commands the finest views, and on which some of the newest houses and most beautiful villas of the neighbourhood have been erected. This bank, which is about ninety feet high, forms a portion of a great gravel terrace, or coast line, which extends from the confines of Loch Ness, through Inverness, Nairn, and Moray shires, to the mouth of the river Spey, having a line of similar height and characters opposed to it on the Ross-shire coast, and thus indicating a former elevation of the sea, or some other great body of water nearly corresponding with the summit level of the Great Glen, which lies between the Lakes Oich and Lochy. The surface of this terrace composes a second plain above that on which the town of Inverness chiefly stands, spreading itself out till it joins the base of the hills on the south. This plain is of various breadth, (generally from one to two or three miles,) is highly cultivated, and adorned by numerous country seats.

The distant mountain screens which close in the view around Inverness are also of very varied aspect. The serrated mountains about Loch Ness terminate in the high dome-shaped summit of Mealfourvounie, a well-known landmark to all the country round, and to the navigators of the adjoining firths. Towards the west the hills of Strathconon and Strathglass, at the head of Loch Beauly, rise in clusters of peaks, while almost the whole northern horizon is occupied by the huge shapeless mountain of Ben Wevis, in Ross-shire, (upwards of 3700 feet in height,) and its extensive ramifications, which are disposed in long round-backed heathy chains, overtopping the eminences which rise from the margin of the Firth of Cromarty. Towards the east, the waters of the Moray Firth, stretching out into the German Ocean, conduct the eye to the dim and distant mountain ranges of Sutherland, Caithness, and Banff shires.

3. The name of Inverness denotes its situation as near the estuary of the river Ness, which flows from the great inland

lake, into whose waters fall those of the celebrated cataract of Foyers. Hence the Gaelic word *ess*, signifying a waterfall, has been bestowed on the whole country, as well as on the loch and river. The course of the last is only about six miles; and it is equally "noble, broad, clear, and strong," whether we observe it at its junction with the sea, or where it flows from its parent lake. Its banks are fringed with rows of trees, and many beautiful seats and villas; and within a mile of the town it is divided into two branches by an island, or rather a series of islands, luxuriantly wooded. These, in ancient days, were celebrated as the scenes of rural feasts given by the magistrates of Inverness to the King's judges when they came here to hold assize courts. Fresh salmon, caught in an adjoining pool, are said to have formed the chief delicacy at those banquets; while claret, brandy, and hollands, and even the classic sack, circulated in abundance among the guests. Their more refined descendants, a few years ago, cut the surface of the islands into pleasure-walks, and connected the opposite banks by chain-bridges; but a great speat or flood, in January 1849, swept these away, and submerged the islands for some weeks. The broad valley intervening between the eastern extremity of Loch Ness and the sea, is diversified by the wide tabular terrace already alluded to; which also is found, though not so distinctly marked, on the north side, where it is broken into undulating knolls and hillocks. This higher ground, as well as the bottom of the valley, is wholly composed of rolled stones and gravel. A projecting portion of the flat or table-ground adjoining the east bank of the river, formed the site of the ancient castle; and immediately below and around it were clustered the principal and oldest streets and houses of the town, the buildings on the western bank being but of recent erection.

4. In the year 1685, a handsome stone bridge, of seven ribbed arches, was erected across the river by means of public subscriptions, and large contributions from the town's funds. One of the arches contained a vault used as a jail, and latterly as a mad-house, which was only closed up within the last thirty years. The grating, or air-hole was, till lately, visible, whence the poor captive obtained a distant view of the hills, and of the river which rolled beneath him, whose dismal noise was only echoed by the trampling of horses and passengers over the roof of his damp and lonely cell. It is said that this horrible dun-

geon was only abandoned after a maniac confined in it had been devoured by rats, and in 1735 the town-treasurer paid 12s. Scots for "burying a man who died in the bridge vault!" A wooden bridge, described by an officer in Cromwell's army as "the weakest, in his opinion, that ever straddled over so strong a stream," previously existed, a few feet below the stone one, and ushered the passengers into the town through a gateway under one of the houses. It fell in September 1664, with upwards of 100 people on it at the time, yet none of them were drowned. Its successor also yielded to the flood in 1849, above alluded to, which was aggravated by certain defects in the works of the Caledonian Canal, the banks of which gave way in several places at the upper reach or summit-level of Loch Oich, and also in front of the lock at Dochgarroch (the lower end of Loch Dochfour), where there was an artificial outlet or overflow made in connection with the raising of the level of the lake, for the surplus water to escape into the river Ness, but which had been constructed too wide for the discharging area of the arches of the Inverness bridge. The community of Inverness have since brought a bill into Parliament for the reconstruction of their bridge, with improved approaches, relying, as they obviously were entitled to do, on Government's defraying the cost, in reparation of the damage which the town had sustained, and the danger to life to which the inhabitants had been exposed.

5. The town occupies both sides of the river; but the most considerable part, both in extent and style, of the houses lies, as already stated, on the east side. From the stone bridge the main street, divided into compartments, called Bridge Street, High Street, and Petty Street, proceeds eastward at right angles to the river; and from it Church Street and Academy Street diverge northwards in a direction towards (and uniting as they approach) the harbour.

6. At the corner of Church Street is the old Jail, built in 1791; its steeple, erected on a plan somewhat similar to that of St. Andrew's Church in Edinburgh, is 130 feet high, and is a remarkably handsome structure. This building cost about £1800, and the spire £1600 more, which sums were raised by subscription, and contributions from Parliament, and the northern counties whose criminals are sent to the jail of Inverness for trial before the Circuit Courts of Justiciary. Although a

great improvement at the time of its erection, this prison has now been superseded by a new jail, erected on the Castle Hill, alongside of and in unison with the Castle, or County Rooms, a handsome castellated structure, also recently built, after a design of Mr. Burns of Edinburgh. From their elevated position these buildings together form one of the most striking features of the town. With all its defects, the late jail of Inverness must have been regarded as a palace, in comparison with the older prison of the town, which was used after the vault in the stone bridge had been changed into a bedlam. Thus, in the burgh records, we find that the town-clerk, on 29th September 1709, "paid an officer 4s. 6d. Scots to buy a cart of peats to be burnt in the Tolbooth to remove the bad scent;" and in December 1737 the magistrates ordered the same functionary to purchase "an iron spade to be given to the hangman for cleaning the Tolbooth:" from which our readers can be at no loss to judge of its condition.

7. Nearly opposite the jail is the Exchange, with the Town-house, (erected in 1708,) and the ancient Cross of the burgh, at the base of which lies the *Clach-na-cudden*, or "Stone of the Tubs," the famous resting-stone on which the maid-servants in passing from the river, were wont to lay down their water-pitchers. It is reckoned the palladium of the town, and at one time, along with the Cross, it stood out on the side or middle of the street. In the wall above are the royal arms, with those of the town; and within the hall are a few good paintings of local benefactors. From the east end of the Exchange, Castle Street (anciently called Doomesdale Street, because it led up to the Gallows Moor) conducts to the rising ground or terrace above mentioned. Along the banks of the river, the greater part of the newer buildings have been erected; and towards the harbours a wooden bridge was constructed across the river some years ago, which has proved of much utility.

8. The population of the town and parish, since the year 1791, has nearly doubled. At present, according to the census of 1841, it is 15,308,—the total number within the parliamentary boundaries of the town being 11,575, of whom 5067 were males, and 6508 females. In 1831, it amounted respectively to 14,324 and 9663. About a sixth of the population depend chiefly on agriculture for employment, and a third on trade. The parliamentary constituency of Inverness, at the first registration under

the Reform Act, was 466, and that of the other associated burghs of Forres, Nairn, and Fortrose, 241. At present (1850) the number of persons entitled to vote in Inverness for a member of parliament, is 478 ; and in the sister burghs 300 There are no professions practised peculiar to the burgh (but anciently its maltsters were numerous and wealthy) ; and though the advantages of its situation for manufactures and commerce are manifestly great, its trade cannot be considered of importance, there being only two manufactories in the place, one for bagging, and the other for woollen cloths ; besides a distillery, a few breweries, and tan-works. But there are in Inverness two public news-rooms, six banking-houses, including a provincial bank, several printing establishments, and two weekly newspapers. Besides steamers, the port possesses 230 coasting vessels of about 10,000 registered tonnage ; and it is now becoming a great and cheap resort for the repair and fitting out of ships.

In the year 1847 an act was obtained for deepening the channel of the river Ness and improving the harbour ; and under the plans then sanctioned, it is the intention of the harbour trustees to dredge the river and form a wet dock and quays and breastworks adjoining the timber bridge, and between it and the old or Citadel Quay, which will bring the trade close to the doors of the inhabitants, and to the east side of the river, and to a spot adjoining the terminus of the proposed Great North of Scotland Railway. The present Thornbush Pier, near the mouth of the river, but on the west side, it is intended, shall be enlarged for the reception of the largest-sized steamers ; and when these operations are finished, in conjunction with the accommodations of the Caledonian Canal basin and wharves, Inverness will have as complete and ample a harbour as any port on the east coast of Scotland, and one which will present peculiar facilities, from the cheapness of labour and timber in the place for the building and repair and outfit of vessels. The town has also lately obtained a police act, under which, and the attendant assessment, it is watched and lighted. It is well supplied with good haberdashery, grocery, ironmongery, wine, bookselling, confectionary, perfumery, fruit, and other shops, and with butcher meat ; while the Inverness bread is distinguished for its good quality. The fish market is also pretty regularly and constantly supplied, and at moderate

prices, though not with great variety. Dairy produce is abundant, and poultry pretty much so, though not fed as for the southern markets. There is capital salmon-fishing in the river, and permission for rod-fishing to be had by the day or week at reasonable charges.

9. Inverness does not boast of many public buildings erected in good taste. Oliver Cromwell destroyed all the old ecclesiastical ones; and none have since been built with any pretensions to beauty except the Roman Catholic and St. John's Episcopal Chapels. The new Caledonian Bank in High Street, opposite the Exchange, and looking up Castle Street, is unquestionably the finest building in the north, and is deserving of notice. It embraces ample accommodation for business, and also a large house for the manager. The design was furnished by Mr. Mackenzie, architect in Elgin, and on a small scale in some respects resembles the Commercial Bank, Edinburgh. Above the basement, which contains two finely carved archways, is a large portico, with four fluted columns, having beautifully carved Corinthian capitals, which support a massive pediment, within which are arranged a group of allegorical figures, from the classic chisel of Mr. H. Ritchie of Edinburgh. The centre figure is Caledonia, holding in her hand the Roman fasces, emblematical of unity. On the right is a figure representing the Ness, from whose side rises another female form, symbolic of a tributary stream. On the extreme right are two small figures rowing a bark, representing Commerce. On the left is Plenty pouring out the contents of her cornucopia; a reaper, with an armful of cut corn, a shepherd and sheep, emblematical of the rural interests of the country. The group has been generally admired, as have also the foliage and carvings in the lower compartments of the building. The Assembly or Northern Meeting Rooms are clumsy and heavy in the exterior, but large and elegantly fitted up within.

10. The Academy is a plain building, with class-rooms for five masters, besides a hall in which is a beautiful painting of the Holy Family, said to be by Sasso Ferrato, but by some thought to be the work of Perino de Vaga; and a bust, by Westmacott, of Hector Fraser, a teacher of considerable eminence in this place. The number of pupils who attend this seminary is now generally from 150 to 200: formerly the numbers were greater. There is a library and small museum at-

tached to it, collected by the Northern Institution, established here, some years ago, for the promotion of Science and Literature. It is provided with able masters. Inverness is peculiarly well supplied with public schools for the education of the lower orders and the poor. Private schools and academies are also numerous; and being likewise one of the towns comprehended in the late Dr. Andrew Bell of Egmont's munificent bequest for the purposes of education in Scotland, his trustees (the Magistrates and Town Council) have lately opened a handsome institution near the Academy, in which a large number of children are instructed on the Madras or monitorial system of Dr. Bell. A well conducted seminary has also been opened under the auspices of the Free Church. Connected with the Academy is a fund left, in 1803, by Captain William Mackintosh, of the Hindostan East Indiaman, for the education of boys of certain families of that name. Its whole revenue, with its lands, is now valued at £25,000. To improve the curriculum of instruction for those bursars, it has been proposed that the Academy and Mackintosh funds should be united, in the hope that with the eventual assistance of Government, the number and status of masters in the institution may be so increased and raised, as to render it equal to some of the Scotch colleges, and a general place of resort for the North Highlands. A bill is now before Parliament for so far effecting these very desirable objects.

11. Within a few minutes' walk, by the river side, is the Northern Infirmary, a handsome structure, and a well-conducted institution, supported by parochial collections and private subscriptions. The Caledonian and Union Hotels are spacious and handsome buildings. The town is well paved, watered, and lighted with gas, and the walks around it are unrivalled for the beauty and variety of the scenery they command; and Inverness is one of the most attractive residences for families, and amongst the most regular and well-built provincial towns in Scotland. The climate is mild and salubrious, and families who have been resident in tropical countries find Inverness well adapted for their constitution, owing most probably to its being removed from the keen winds which blow from off the German ocean, and in that the air is rendered soft and balmy by the peculiar position and form of the Great Glen, which carry across the Atlantic vapours, and impart somewhat of the west coast character to our climate, without its excessive moisture. The

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principal seats in the neighbourhood are Culloden, Raigmore, Muirtown, Leys Castle, Ness Castle, Culduthel, and Dochfour; and the grounds about these are suited to extensive estates. Leys Castle is an imposing and costly structure, in the Gothic castellated style; a square building, with corner and entrance towers, and a central pavilion. Most of the others are elsewhere noticed.

We may direct the stranger's attention to the view from the castle-hill, and to a promenade recently formed to the north of Cromwell's fort, afterwards described, along the mouth of the river on the east side, and leading round by the sea-side, as giving the best idea of the locality, and presenting landscapes not often surpassed.

12. Thus far of the statistics of the town. Its history is interesting. Inverness was frequently visited by the Scottish sovereigns; and for many ages the annals of several adjacent parts of the Highlands are scarcely known, except through their connexion with this burgh.

Without recurring to the usual list of fables which invest Inverness with an antiquity higher even than the commencement of the Christian era, we have the authority of Adamnan, in his Life of Columba, for stating that this saint sojourned "ad ostiam Nessiæ," with the view of converting Brudeus, King of the Picts, who resided here; and that in this place he had several conferences with the Scandinavian Earl of Orkney.

13. On the rising ground to the east of the town, called the Crown, a very old castle stood, around which were built the first houses of the burgh; and the spot is still shown where the cross is believed to have stood, and a large stone with a hole in the centre for an upright pillar, has recently been discovered underneath. Macbeth, being by birth the Maormor (literally the Great Man) of Ross, and having by marriage become that of Moray, very probably had possession of this castle; but antiquaries seem now agreed that the murder of King Duncan was not perpetrated within its walls.

Malcolm III., or Caenmore, is said to have razed this castle, and to have built another on the eminence already alluded to, close by the river, which continued ever after to be a king's house and royal fortress, till blown up, in the year 1746, by the troops of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

14. Shaw Macduff, a son of the sixth Earl of Fife, having

come north with Malcolm IV., and assisted in quelling an insurrection of the men of Moray, assumed the name of Mackintosh (son of the Thane), significant of his high birth. He acquired great possessions, and was made heritable governor of this castle. In 1245, Sir John Bisset of Lovat, one of the greatest neighbouring barons, was confined in it for his supposed connexion with the murder of the Earl of Athole: he was accused also of acknowledging the Lord of the Isles as a sovereign prince, and doing him homage. During the minority of one of the captains of clan Chattan, or chief of the Mackintoshes, the castle was seized by the Cumings of Badenoch, who retained it till 1303, when it was captured by Edward I. of England, from whom it was in turn taken for Robert Bruce. Bruce was then wandering in the Ebudæ; and, it is added, when the news of the seizure of this fortress reached his ears, he was roused to the daring feats which afterwards paved his way to the throne. From this period to the accession of James I., the government of the castle was retained in the hands of the crown. Donald of the Isles, who fought the battle of Harlaw, in 1410, with the Earl of Mar, burned the town of Inverness on his march. The last-named monarch again bestowed the castle on the captain of the clan Chattan, and at the same time repaired and greatly strengthened it. He held a court in it, to which all the northern chiefs and barons were summoned, three of whom were executed here for treason, while Alexander, Lord of the Isles, son of *Donald*, was detained in custody for a year. This lord avenged the affront cast upon him by also setting fire to the town: but though the inhabitants were exposed to the rapine of his followers, he was defied in his attempts to wrest the castle from the hands of Mackintosh the governor. This island chief was subsequently defeated by a royal army in Lochaber, and was compelled on his knees to beg his life from the king, in presence of the whole court at Holyrood, and was imprisoned in Tantallon Castle. His successor, John of the Isles, invading the mainland in fulfilment of his treaty with Edward IV., or rather, perhaps Donald Balloch of Isla, also a party to the league with England, took the castle by surprise. His rebellion drew upon John the forfeiture of the earldom of Ross, which, with the sheriffdom of Inverness and Nairn, was annexed to the crown.

In the year 1508, the Earl of Huntly obtained the appoint-

ment of heritable sheriff of the county, and keeper of the castle. For a short time the Regent Moray was sheriff, but soon afterwards the Huntly family regained all their possessions; and it was only in 1629 that they resigned their office to the crown, for which a compensation was granted of £2500. At that period it was conferred for life on Sir Robert Gordon, the historian of Sutherland.

During the period of the civil wars, this castle was repeatedly taken by Montrose and his opponents, and the whole country, even in this northern corner, then experienced all the horrors of a hostile invasion. In 1649, its fortifications were nearly demolished by Mackenzie of Pluscardine, Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty, and a party opposed to the Parliament. The castle chambers, decorated with stucco busts and paintings, and hung round with tapestry, then fell sadly into decay; and the fortress seems to have been totally lost sight of till, in the year 1718, we read of its being again repaired. A governor's house was at that time added to it, and the ancient part formed into barracks for the Hanoverian soldiers. It was then called Fort-George, and, though rendered uninhabitable by Prince Charles' troops in 1746, a large portion of its walls remained entire till a recent period.

15. The first charter granted to the burgh is attributed to Malcolm Caenmore. This is erroneous, there being no Scottish records known earlier than the time of Edgar, his son. Inverness was erected into a royal burgh by David I., and was one of the "loca capitalia per totum regnum." It was thus one of the earliest free towns of the kingdom, and had four charters from William the Lion, which, with various additional grants, were all confirmed by subsequent monarchs; and at last confirmed and repeated by James III., whose charter, embodying eight previous charters, is printed at full length in Wight's Treatise on the Scotch Election Laws. The *great* charter of the town, however, was bestowed by King James VI. anno 1591, a translation of which was afterwards ratified and confirmed by the whole estates of Parliament in 1661 (Acts Charles II. 1661, c. 147, folio edit. p. 110 of vol. 7). Three of William's, and several others of the oldest, charters are still extant; and perhaps no burgh in the kingdom can boast of so complete and ancient a series of records as that which is in possession of the magistrates of Inverness.

16. Prior to the invasion of Scotland by Edward I., we find that Inverness was repeatedly visited, and almost made a constant residence of by some of the kings; whose presence was continually required in repelling the incursions of the Danes and northern Vikingr, and subduing the insurrections of the turbulent and barbarous natives.

After Bruce's accession, and during the feeble sovereignty of the Stuarts, Inverness was exposed to the oppression of the constables of its own castle, besides being the constant prey of the Islemen and Highland clans. Its annals are full of accounts of burnings, ransackings, battles fought in its neighbourhood for its defence, stratagems, and pecuniary imposts resorted to by the magistrates, for keeping off or soothing its barbarous and cruel neighbours. It was evidently the seat of a colony of busy merchants, whose names, from the earliest date, indicate their Flemish or Saxon descent. They possessed a great share of the scanty commerce of the country. In the year 1280, the town was resorted to by a French count as a fit place for building a large ship, his own having been wrecked in the Orkneys; and its exports of hides, herring, salmon, malt, &c., were known in the ports of the Continent, and even on the shores of the Mediterranean. Few of the wealthy burghers were Highlandmen; but to the attacks of these restless and insatiable neighbours they were constantly exposed. Yet it has ever been the fashion to style Inverness the capital of the Highlands, and the metropolis of the north. It was the emporium of commerce; but the Highlanders acknowledged no capitals, no places of resort, except the chieftain's castles and strongholds, and the open gathering hills.

17. In this town our monarchs frequently held their courts; those disobedient to the king's summons to attend them being cited at the market-cross of the burgh. Here the justice aires were always held; and the proprietors who lived on the lines of road conducting to the town were obliged to escort the judges, and see them safe through their territories. It is still the town where the circuit courts of justiciary for the trial of important criminal offences, and civil cases appealed from the local judicatories, sit twice a-year, for the northern counties.

One of the last royal visits to Inverness was paid by Queen Mary, who came north to quell an insurrection of the Earl of Huntly. The queen caused the governor of the castle, who held

it for the earl, to be hanged. This unfortunate princess is said to have been much attached to Inverness; and the house in which she lived subsisted till of late years. It was a curious structure, situated close by the bridge, and at the base of that castle wall where her vassal waved his banner and lorded it over his sovereign. Her situation so near the castle was evidently dangerous; but the garrison was overawed by the Frasers, Monroes, and Mackenzies, headed by the Lord Lovat, who crowded to the queen's protection.

18. Cromwell (in 1652-7) built a citadel and fort on the north side of the town, near the mouth of the river. "It cost £80,000 sterling, and was nearly five years in building. It was a regular pentagon, surrounded at full tide with water sufficient to float a small bark. The breastwork was three storeys high, all of hewn stone, and lined with brick inside. The sally-port lay towards the town. The principal gateway was to the north, where was a strong drawbridge of oak and a stately structure over it, with this motto, 'Togam tuentur arma.' From this bridge the citadel was approached by a vault seventy feet long, with seats on each side. In the centre of the fort stood a large square building, three storeys high: the lower storey contained the granary and magazine. In the highest was a church well finished within a pavilion roof, surmounted by a steeple with a clock and four bells; at the south-east stood a long building, four storeys high, called the English Building, because built by English masons; and opposite to it a similar one erected by Scottish architects. The accommodations altogether would lodge 1000 men. England supplied the oak planks and beams, Strathglass the fir; recourse was had to the monasteries of Kinloss and Beauly, the bishop's castle of Chanonry, the Greyfriars' Church, and St. Mary's Chapel in Inverness, for the stonework; and so abundant were the provisions and supplies of the garrison, that a Scots pint of claret sold for a shilling; and cloth was bought as cheap as in England."* On the Restoration this fortress was demolished, in order to please some of the Highland chiefs, who were then deemed loyal; and, judging from the dates of many of the older houses in the town, it is supposed that they were built of its materials. A considerable part of the ramparts still remains.

19. For a long time the houses of the burgh seem to have

* Anderson's Historical Account of the Family of Fraser, p. 110.

been crowded near the castle, and along the Church Street, which was commanded by it. They were erected in the old Flemish style, with large courts and arched gateways, and gables turned towards the street. Even in the middle of last century, a great proportion of the houses were thatched with heather and straw, and few of the ceilings or rooms in them were plastered. Formerly most of the neighbouring proprietors had houses in Inverness, to which they resorted in the winter season; and hence the society partook of a high aristocratic character. Till within these few years, several of the streets had a very picturesque, though irregular, appearance, from the hanging balconies, and round turnpike stairs and towers which projected in front of the houses.

20. The Invernessians were such staunch Jacobites, that open obstruction was given by the magistrates to the proclamation of George I.'s accession to the throne; and they stirred up the people to a riot. So greatly, too, was Episcopacy rooted in the minds of the people of this town, that, in 1691, when the settlement of a parish minister was ordered under the established Presbyterian Church, armed men were stationed by the burgh rulers at the church door to prevent his admission, and Presbyterianism had to be enforced by the aid of a regiment sent north for that express purpose.

So late as the period of the Disarming Act, men in all parts of the Highlands appeared on Sundays as if fully accoutred for war; and, seventy years ago, only *three* ladies with straw bonnets were to be seen in the High Church of Inverness. It appears, by the town records, that the streets were for the first time cleaned at the public expense in 1746, by order of the Duke of Cumberland. From the cheapness of foreign wines, spirits, and ale, dissipation prevailed here, and in all the northern towns, even to the end of last century, to a degree almost inconceivable. Now, no distinctions can be perceived in the dress, manners, or modes of living of the inhabitants of the burgh from those of other towns in Scotland. Indeed, the people of Inverness are usually regarded as more advanced in refinement than most of their neighbours; and their pronunciation is generally considered better than in any other part of Scotland.

21. The town is ruled by a provost, four bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and fourteen councillors. The magistrates

walk to church on Sundays, preceded by their lictors, as in the days of ancient Rome; and, till lately, when required, they attended in a body the funerals of the inhabitants.

22. Trade, by means of the Caledonian Canal, is reviving. Living is not dear. The spirit of industry and speculation has called forth several companies for the employment of capital and the embellishment of the town. Steam-boats and coaches have rendered it a great thoroughfare. Access is easily had from Inverness to all parts of the country; and its inns, for elegance and comfort, are nowhere surpassed in Scotland.

SECTION V.

ROUTE II.

PERTH TO INVERNESS, ACROSS THE GRAMPIANS, BY THE HIGHLAND ROAD, THROUGH ATHOLE, BADENOCH, STRATHSPEY, AND STRATHDEARN.

Perth and its environs, 1.—Scone Palace; Glen Almond; Episcopal College; Luncarty; Auchtergaven; Birnamhill, 2.—Dunkeld—Town, Cathedral, and Bishoprick, 3.—Woods and Walks, 4.—The King's Pass, and Upper Valley of the Tay, 5.—Moulinearn; Pitlochry; Fascally; Pass and Battle of Killiecrankie, 6.—Blair Athole, and Athole House, 7.—Falls of the Bruar and Fender; Glen Tilt, and hunting scenes, 8.—Strowan; passage through the Grampians by Drumouchter; Dalnacardoch, 9. Cairns, encampments, and conflicts, 10.—Military and modern roads, 11.—Dalwhinnie, 12.—Description of Loch Errocht, foot note; Glen Truim and Glenfernisdale, 13.—Craig Dhu, 14.—Battle of Invernahavon, 15.—Inn and village of Kingussie, and history of the ancient Lordship of Badenoch, 16.—Embankments on the Spey, 17.—Ruthven Barracks and Castle, 18.—Belleville; Castle of Raits, incident at, 19.—Views of the Grampians; Tor Alvie, 20.—Loch Alvie and Kinrara, 21.—Craigelachie; Strathspey; Aviemore Inn, 22.—Dulnan pine forest; Carr Bridge, 23.—Slochmuichk; Mackintosh of Borlum; Banditti, 24.—Strathdearn; River Findhorn; Freeburn Inn, 25.—Loch Moy; Moy Hall, 26.—Strathnairn Daviot; views, and approach to Inverness, 27.

Principal Hotels.

The George; Salutation; Star; City.

Stages.	Miles.	Miles.
Dunkeld	15	—
Moulinearn	9	24
Pitlochrie	4	28
Blair Athole or Bridge of Tilt Inns	7	35
Dalnacardoch	11	46
Dalwhinnie	13	59
Kingussie	14	73
Aviemore	12½	85½
Bridge of Carr	7	92½
Freeburn	9	101½
Moy	4	105½
Craggy	4	109½
Inverness	8	117½
	117½	

1. After reaching Perth, or St. Johnston's, by rail, on his way north, the tourist will doubtless rest a short while ere he

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proceeds to view the magnificent panorama around the reaches of the Tay, as it emerges from the wooded highlands towards the north-west, and is lost in the Carse of Gowrie on the east, and to take a turn round the celebrated walks and streets of the "Fair City." If historical remembrances render Perth interesting to the antiquary as the scene of the Gowrie Conspiracy and of the first exertions of the reformer Knox, its modern embellishments and agreeable situation will not fail to please the general tourist. The city lies in a low plain on the west bank of the Tay, where its course bends to the east, and in a rather compact mass,—the public greens, or North and South Inches, as they are called, and which are not only of great importance to the commercial interests of the place, but afford most agreeable and healthy walks to the inhabitants, occupying either side of the town, along the margin of the river. Its streets are rather narrow, the houses of a greyish-red or dull freestone, and in the central streets generally high and of irregular elevations, with numerous and handsome shops. The population exceeds 20,000. Cotton weaving, chiefly of umbrella cloths, as also linen weaving and bleaching, are their principal occupations, there being about 1600 weavers in the town. The first bleachfield established in Scotland is that of Tulloch, in the vicinity. Perth was at one time celebrated for its glove trade. A fine bridge of 900 feet span, with ten arches, built in 1722, bestrides the river at the lower end of the North Inch; and at its further extremity a long street, called Bridgend, runs along the river. The railway station common to the various railways centering in Perth is on the west side of the town, and the Perth and Dundee line is carried across the river below the bridge just mentioned.

The Tay is navigable to Perth, and steamers and vessels of large burthen come close to the town. The principal edifices are, the County Buildings, a porticoed structure fronting the river, between the bridge and South Inch, on the site of Gowrie House, handed down to fame by the Gowrie conspiracy, with the New Jail behind; an ornamental round structure, containing the Water Works; Marshall's building, another round two-storeyed edifice, erected to the memory of Provost Marshall, and which contains the Antiquarian Society museum, and a public library; St. John's Church, where John Knox preached his first sermon against popery and church buildings, now

arranged for the accommodation of the congregations of three of the four parishes into which the town is divided—a very ancient building, surmounted by a square tower, and the representative of still older fabrics,—a place of worship, frequently renewed, having occupied this site from a very remote antiquity, it is alleged so far back as the fifth century, and thus the oldest stone church in the kingdom; the Barracks, which can contain one thousand infantry; a large structure, the Lunatic Asylum, on the face of the hill above Bridgend; an Infirmary: the Public Schools in Rose Terrace, fronting the North Inch; and an extensive pile of regular building on the south of the South Inch, erected, in 1812, at a cost of £130,000, and used as a depot for French prisoners, of whom it could accommodate 7000, and which is now remodelled into a central prison for the northern counties. This last Inch, which is surrounded and intersected by a double row of trees, and lined on two sides by a handsome row of houses and villas, was, in days of yore, the field where games and feats of strength, especially of archery, were practised; and around it were various religious edifices, all razed to the ground in 1559; and near it the Parliament House. The North Inch now forms the Perth race-course, and is peculiary adapted for the purpose.

Perth was the capital of the kingdom till the reigns of James the Second and Third. It had a regular Parliament House, and has been the scene of many historical events. James I. was murdered in the monastery of the Blackfriars; and his body and that of his queen, and of Margaret, queen of James IV., were interred in the Carthusian monastery. The Earl of Cornwall was murdered by his brother, Edward III., before the high altar of St. John's. The city was at one time strongly fortified, and is supposed to have been so originally by Agricola, and the fortifications were repaired by Edward I. and III.; and *Low's Wark*, about four miles up the Almond, a very curious old weir or dyke, still extant, served to divert a large portion of the stream into an aqueduct encompassing the walls. The city has sustained various sieges.

Perth possessed, prior to the Reformation, no less than four monasteries, two nunneries, and a number of other religious houses.

The North Inch was also the scene of a remarkable contest in the reign of Robert III., between a select band of the Mac-

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intoshes and clan Kay, thirty of each, arranged by royal authority, in order to terminate a deadly feud between these clans. One of the Macintoshes having lost heart, disappeared before the affray commenced; but his place was supplied by a gallant saddler of Perth, of the name of Wynde, who volunteered his services for a half French gold dollar. Twenty-nine of the Mackays fell, and the survivor swam across the river and escaped; ten of the Macintoshes and Wynde remaining masters of the field.—(See Sir Walter Scott's "Fair Maid of Perth.")

Cromwell built a strong citadel on the South Inch, demolishing a number of houses for its erection.

The tourist should ascend Moncrieff Hill, at least as far as the railway tunnel, where he will enjoy one of the richest and most beautiful views in Scotland, and contemplating which, he will be able to appreciate the force of that burst of admiration with which the ancient Romans, on their passage over the same ground, hailed the plain and scenery beneath them—"Ecce Tiber! Ecce Campus Martius!" The opposite height of Kinnoul Hill commands an equally fine and rather more extensive view, especially towards the interior of the country, backed by a long line of the Grampian Mountains. Beneath its bold acclivities is Kinfauns Castle and beautifully wooded slopes falling gradually into the Carse of Gowrie, through which the railway trains may now be seen dashing to and from Dundee. Visits to Scone Palace, to Dupplin Castle, the residence of the Earl of Kinnoul, five miles west of Perth, and to Lynedoch Castle, will afford delightful excursions to the tourist ere he quits this neighbourhood. The old village of Abernethy, near the northern extremity of Glenfarg, once the capital of the Scoto Picts, and the site of an extensive Culdee establishment, and characterized by a remarkable round tower similar to that of Brechin, and the work certainly of a very remote antiquity, claims the notice of the antiquary. And the village of Bridge of Earn, with Pitkeathly Mineral Wells adjoining, also lie in the vicinity. In an opposite direction the celebrated Carse of Gowrie invites, by its great expanse of perhaps the most fertile land in Scotland, embellished too with numerous country seats. And the tourist will be well repaid by a transit by rail as far as "Bonnie Dundee."

2. Proceeding now towards the Highlands on the Dunkeld road, the tourist passes several large printfields; and at the

distance of two and a half miles he descries, on the farther side of the Tay, the sombre walls of Scone, a large structure forming a hollow oblong square, formerly a palace of the kings of Scotland (now the seat of the Earl of Mansfield, representative of the Stormont family), whence Edward I. removed the celebrated inauguration stone, previously taken from Berigonium, or Dunstaffnage, and now in Westminster Abbey, where it still forms part of the coronation chair of the British Monarchs. Part of the walls of the old palace form the sides of the gallery, an apartment 150 feet in length. The house is chiefly remarkable otherwise for the large assortment of cabinets and some fine specimens of Beavois tapestry, several good paintings, and a bed of flowered crimson velvet, wrought by Queen Mary in Lochleven Castle.

The river Almond here crosses the road, which immediately thereafter passes under the Scottish Midland Railway; leaving Glenalmond on the left, where are the graves of "Bessy Bell and Mary Gray," and the modern Castle of Lynedoch, and Trinity College, opened within the last few years for the education of the clergy and youth of the Scottish Episcopal communion. As yet only two sides of the large quadrangle (190 feet square) have been built, comprehending the wardens and professors' houses, and accommodation for about 130 boys, including rooms for thirteen divinity students. Funds are still wanting for the erection of the hall, large school-room, cloisters, and completion of the chapel, notwithstanding the munificent donations of the Reverend Charles Wordsworth, the warden, which alone amounts to £10,000! About two miles in advance, a road leads from the left to Redgorton and Monedie, and another upon the right conducts to Luncarty, now the site of a fine bleachfield close to the Tay, and which was the scene of a desperate and decisive battle between the Scots and the Danes in the reign of Kenneth III. The Scots, when nearly overcome, were rallied by a peasant of the name of Hay, who, with his two sons, were ploughing hard by, and whose only weapons, it is said, were plough yokes. Hence the Hays' crest for many centuries has been a peasant carrying a yoke over his shoulder; and local tradition adds, that the Scottish king having promised the peasant, Hay, as his reward, all the land his falcon would fly over before alighting,—won thereby the whole country to the rocks of Kinnoul Hill, where it had been nestled.

Passing now the fine trouting streams of Ordie and Shochie, and the beautiful terrace banks overhanging the Tay, the road, nine miles from Perth, enters the straggling village of Auchtergaven, and then ascending a long moorish ridge, regains the valley of the Tay from amidst the copse woods and policies of Murthly Castle (Sir William Drummond Stewart), a splendid but unfinished edifice, in the Elizabethan style, with an old castle near it. The grand entrance to the Highlands by the skirts of Birnam Hill (1580 feet above the sea); and the rough eminences (all composed of *roofing slate*), which form the outer flanks of the Grampians, and gorgeously tangled over with the golden blossomed furze, at the same moment burst into view. Birnam Wood, so fatal to Macbeth, has been long despoiled of its ancient forests, but young plantations of larch clambering up its slopes will soon conceal them, and the slate quarries that now scar them to a great depth. The hills on the north bank of the Tay also exhibit deep cuts in the clay or roofing slate of which they are composed, and which both to the south and north trends off in a thin band or zone seldom exceeding a mile in breadth.

3. Nestled among overhanging rocks and woods, and built on one of the numerous terraced flats which skirt both sides of the noble Tay, Dunkeld, the true entrance to the Highland scenery, has long been regarded as one of our most elegant and picturesque towns, and is a resort of many strangers, on account of the purity and softness of the air, and the great variety and beauty of the walks and drives around it. Before crossing the spacious five-arched bridge which leads to it, a road will be seen inclining to the left, which, after passing the village of Inver, (where Neil Gow, the famous performer of Scotch reels, was born,) proceeds along the west bank of the Tay to Kenmore, and the western districts of Perthshire.* The guardian mountain screens of the town are very conspicuous as it is entered

* A coach usually goes, in summer, from Dunkeld, by Kenmore and Killin, to Loch Lomond—and one is talked of, to branch off to Callander. It leaves Dunkeld at 7 o'clock A.M., and returns at 8 P.M.; fares, 30s. and £1. This is a route every way worthy of, and suitable for, a public conveyance, and we trust will hereafter never want one. A mail gig, carrying three passengers, also runs daily (except on Tuesdays) from Dunkeld, as far as Kenmore, leaving Dunkeld about noon, (fare, 6s.) There is also a gig on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from Pitlochrie, at the foot of Killiecrankie Pass, to Rannoch. We may also add, that a daily coach leaves Dunkeld every morning at 7, for Cupar-Angus, by Blairgowrie, in connexion, with the railway to Dundee, and to await the Dundee steamers—the distance to Dundee being thirty miles—and returns in the evening.

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from the Perth side, the most northerly being Cragiebarns, and farther to the west Cragievenean, the bold and lofty sides of both which, covered with dense pine wood, form a protecting background, and hide from the view the upper valley of the Tay.

Dunkeld consists of two streets, one leading from the bridge, and the other at right angles to it, with back lanes proceeding from both. At the west end of the latter street, running parallel with the river, and above the bridge, stands the ancient and venerable cathedral of the diocese of Dunkeld. This building measures about eighty paces in length: the nave is now roofless, but the choir was rebuilt by the late Duke of Athole on the original model, at an expense of £5000, and is used as a place of worship. At the west end rises a buttressed tower, ninety feet in height, and twenty-four feet square, and adjoining it a small octagonal watch-tower. Buttresses project between the windows, surmounted above the church by traceried spiracles. The great aisle measures one hundred and twenty by sixty feet: the walls are forty feet high, and the side aisles twelve feet wide. On each side are seven spacious Gothic arches, with fluted soffits, resting on six plain Norman-like pillars, having shafts ten feet high, and four and a-half in diameter, and two half-columns. Over the arches there are two tiers of windows, the lower semicircular, the higher acute. The windows of the side-aisles are all of different designs, and chiefly of the decorated or middle-pointed Gothic; and it is interesting, and historically curious to mark, as observed by Mr. Billings, (Bar. and Eccl. Antiq. Scot.,) "even in this distant mountainous see, traces of the Flamboyant character of the French-Gothic artists." He considers it probable that there was no part of the building erected before 1230. There is the tomb and statue of a bishop in his robes, under a crocketed canopy, believed to be those of Bishop Robert Cardeny, who founded the nave, where he lies, in 1406. The new church is handsomely fitted up. In the spacious vestry, at the east end, is the gigantic stone effigy, arrayed in panoply of mail, which formerly, in the old church of this place, surmounted the grave of the notorious Earl of Buchan, "Wolf of Badenoch," the natural son of Robert II., who burnt the Cathedral of Elgin.

The Bishoprick of Dunkeld was established by David I., A.D. 1127, on the foundation of an older Culdee monastery.

Gregory was the name of its first bishop. Robert Creighton, the last and thirty-ninth bishop, died in 1550. Bishop Sinclair built the choir in 1330. The great aisle was completed, in 1450, by Bishop Lauder, who also added the chapter-house in 1469; and the tower was finished in 1501. Immediately behind the cathedral stands the ancient palace of the Dukes of Athole. It is an old-fashioned square building; but a magnificent new mansion was commenced by a late Duke, the progress of which has, however, been suspended since his death. It stands behind an eminence bordering the river, which it was intended should have been removed. A considerable portion of the walls has been erected in the Gothic style, with a variety in the fashion of the windows, and the whole will form, if ever completed, an uncommonly large and splendid edifice; while the town, cathedral, and palace, will constitute, with the fine bridge, a remarkable assemblage of architectural objects lining the stream, and embosomed in luxuriant foliage.

4. At the end of the cathedral, the stranger is shown the first two larches introduced into this country: they were originally treated as green-house plants, but are now ninety feet high, and one of them measures fifteen feet in circumference two feet above the ground. Hence the visitor is conducted along the east bank of the Tay, by a terraced walk overshadowed by enormous larches, beech, ash, oak, horse-chesnut, spruce, pine, and birch trees. Noble oaks line the opposite side of the river. The woods rise high on the right, larch and pine predominating. A great portion of the pine and spruce tribe are from 100 to 150 years old, and the oaks are of great growth. The Tay itself is peculiarly beautiful in its long unruffled expanse, and its gentle flow and clear waters. This river is the largest in Scotland, and its tributaries are supplied from a space of 2750 square miles The population of Dunkeld is about 1500; the two principal hotels (and they are both excellent) are the Duke's Arms and Royal.

From the base of Craigievenean a long oak-clad eminence projects, across which the guide leads the way to a hermitage on the wooded banks of the small river Braan. A fine view of Strath-Tay is presented on the way to the hermitage, and another favourable point of view is from the hill-face on the east of the town.

Visitors seldom prolong an examination of the pleasure-

grounds beyond a few miles; but the walks through the policies of Dunkeld are upwards of fifty, independent of a carriage-drive of thirty miles. The larch woods cover an extent of 11,000 square acres; the number of trees planted by his Grace John, late Duke of Athole, being about twenty-seven millions, besides several millions of other sorts of trees. From the hermitage the traveller ought to extend his ramble, up Strath-Braan to the Rumbling Bridge (distant about two miles and a-half from the town) which is thrown across a narrow chasm eighty feet above the water-way. Immediately beyond the bridge, the Braan pours from a height into this gulf with great violence, a tortuous cataract producing a decided tremor in the bridge. At the bottom huge masses of rock have fallen across the stream, which, escaping beneath them, issues below through a fissure not above a yard wide at the bottom, whence it flows into a fearfully still and dark pool.

5. A cleft or gorge through Craigiebarns, called the *King's Pass*, from its being a favourite spot where William the Lion is said to have often rendezvoused for the chase, now enables the public road, by a short cut, to attain the higher valley of Strath-Tay without following the windings of the river. It presents most magnificent views on either hand; and the traveller cannot fail to be struck with the first burst of the strath above, as it comes into view, reposing in all the beauty of a broad plain of arable and meadow-land, intersected by a large, deep, and winding river, which is skirted by numerous parallel terraces, rising one above the other, and by circular detached mounds—the islets in a former great inland lake. Above this lovely champagne landscape, the hill-sides present either craggy fronts, or long smooth slopes bedecked with houses and cottages, and dense woods of pine, larch, and birch trees; while the more distant ranges of the Grampian mountains, and of the West Highlands, present themselves in grim frowning majesty, and in chains and clusters of every imaginable form.

6. After refreshing himself with a glass of *Athole Brose* (a celebrated local compound of *whisky and honey*) at Moulinearn, shortly above the junction of the Tay and Tummel, the tourist, if he stops not for a day's angling, will pass on along the birchen bowers of Tulliemet and Dowally, to the neat and cleanly village of Pitlochrie, where he will find a most excellent inn; and leaving the mansion-house of Faskally (the

beautiful residence of Archibald Butters, Esq.) on the left, and the bridge over the Garry—whence the districts of Rannoch and Tummel can be reached—he soon enters the romantic and classic Pass of Killiecrankie.

The Blair, or plain of Athole, on which we next enter, is watered by the river Garry. This stream, between four and five miles below Athole House, is joined, from the westward, by the river Tummel. The valley, through which their conjoined waters roll is connected with the *Blair* of Athole by the pass of Killiecrankie, which stretches, for the space of a mile or more, along the termination of the river Garry, forming an obtuse or nearly right angle with either valley. Here the hills rise from the bed of the river with a very steep ascent, lining it on the western side with a perpendicular wall of rock. Both banks are enveloped, to the height of several hundred feet, with waving birches; the western slope being surmounted with a line of bare precipices, while the opposite barrier, formed by the lofty Ben Vracky, continues ascending above its wooded portion into abrupt and unadorned nakedness. The terraced sides of the valley, as we emerge from the pass, are adorned by several beautiful villas, as Urrard House, Killiecrankie, and Strathgarry cottages.

Killiecrankie is well known as the scene of the last exploit of Dundee, or, as he was called, "the bloody Clavers," in July 1689. General Mackay, the covenanters' leader, anxious to preoccupy the district of Athole, which was well affected towards King James, and by his presence to overawe the inhabitants, who were likely to declare for that party and reinforce Dundee with 1000 or 1500 men, pressed forward with his army from the south towards Athole House; while his opponent advanced to the same point in an opposite direction. Dundee deemed it inexpedient to dispute Mackay's progress through the pass, choosing rather a pitched encounter, in order to give full scope to the furious onset of his Highland followers, which he felt confident would accomplish the overthrow of the opposing force, and whose destruction would then be insured by the intricacies of the defile through which their retreat must lie. Mackay's army of 4500 men accordingly were suffered to debouch unmolested upon the *haugh*, or open ground, which immediately succeeds to the pass; while Dundee with his band, consisting of 2000 Highlanders and 500 Irish,

instead of advancing directly down the valley of Athole, ascended the Water of Tilt, and, fetching a compass round the hill of Lude, made his appearance on the hill-side, about the position of the House of Urrard. The main body of Mackay's forces were hastily moved forward to a terrace midway between their opponents and the bottom of the glen, where the baggage was left. The regulars were chiefly raw levies, brimful of exaggerated notions of the ferocity and warlike character of their Highland foes. The Highlanders, on the other hand, were possessed with a sovereign contempt for the red-coats, and entertained the most sanguine confidence of victory. The assault commenced towards the close of evening. From their vantage ground, Dundee's rugged followers, bending the body low, and covering themselves with their targets, rushed down with resistless impetuosity. The opposition offered was heartless or unavailing. With the exception of a part of the right wing, Mackay's army was completely swept away. In riding towards a party of his men, to bring them to the attack of this body, Dundee received his death-wound. His rival, meanwhile, having manfully stood his ground, and stemmed the hostile tide, had found himself alone as it rushed passed him, and observing the remnant of his right wing standing firm, he put himself at their head, and counselling his men to be cool, and keep together, he led them down the hill and crossed the river. Avoiding the pass, this small division ascended the strath for six or seven miles, and by a rugged mountain tract, reached Menzies Castle, a few miles to the east of Taymouth, whence they pursued their way to Drummond Castle and Stirling. An upright stone will be observed in a field shortly after emerging from the pass, which is said to mark the spot where Dundee fell in the hour of victory.

7. To the westward of Blair, the vale of Athole is wide, flat, and open, and the hills are low, and seldom precipitous. Where the valley bends from an easterly to a southerly direction, in a sloping lawn surrounded by broad belts of trees, stands Athole House, the ancient residence of the dukes of that name. The house is a long, narrow building, of three storeys, with a lower row of apartments at one end. It was formerly much higher, and a place of considerable strength ; and frequently a scene of hostility during the troublesome periods of the last and preceding centuries. The Athole estates are celebrated for the fine

quality of the timber with which they abound. The greater part was planted by the late Duke John ; and the trees, particularly the larches, are remarkable for their great size and straightness of stem.

8. Blair is noted for the number and variety of interesting waterfalls in its immediate neighbourhood. Three miles to the westward are those of the Bruar, the approach to which is now enclosed within a wall, and the entrance guarded by an old woman, who, however, will civilly show all the falls for a small *consideration*. The streamlet winds through a confined, perpendicular channel of rock, above which the sloping banks are covered with a fir plantation for which they are indebted to Burns' well-known "Petition." Commencing the ascent of the stream, we find it pouring down in a series of low, contracted falls, from one dark basin or linn to another. A more considerable cascade succeeds them : it is about twelve feet high, the water issuing from below through a natural arch of rock. Above this fall a bridge has been thrown across the chasm ; two other falls are seen above the bridge, the remotest being about twelve feet, the nearest above thirty feet high. Beyond these the depth of the dell increases. Heather, in rich wreaths, hangs from the cliffs and jutting corners of the rocks ; tall, graceful larches shoot up their straight stems, and the rowan and aspen add variety to the foliage. Above, we reach a second group of five falls, the lowermost about thirty-five feet high ; the others, taken together, about forty feet. Here there is a second bridge ; and still farther up a third series of falls exist, to all of which a good pathway on each side of the dell conducts, with a carriage-road, leading as far as the second set of falls.

The beauties of Lude, of Glen Tilt, and the Falls of Fender, rival those of Bruar, and are well worthy of being explored ; and indeed few neighbourhoods can more reward the tourist for a few days' stay than this, the more especially, as at the mouth of the Tilt he can be luxuriantly accommodated at either of the spacious inns—the Athole Arms, or the Bridge of Tilt Inn ; and we trust that the impolitic attempt lately made by the advisers of his Grace, the Duke, to exclude the public from the policies and ancient district road through Glen Tilt, will be abandoned, as quite beneath the dignity and the hospitable courtesies of an ancient Highland family. Glen Tilt has been

long cleared of its population, but the inhabitants of the adjoining districts have too long used the road through it to be now prevented for the sake of a few deer. And, besides, the locality is too classic, in a scientific point of view, through the writings of Playfair, Hutton, and Macculloch, to be so shut up. To see all the falls which occur on a burn, a tributary of the Tilt, it should be ascended for three miles at least. The Water of Tilt, which passes close by Athole House, runs for about two miles above the old bridge of Tilt, between high banks rising from the water's edge. In general the sides are very steep, but covered with birch and ash, and a perfect jungle of hazel. The rising sides of the glen, immediately over the edge of the banks, are clothed with fir and larch, to which corn-fields succeed. A burn falling into the water of Tilt, where this latter stream flows between two perpendicular walls of limestone, gives rise to the Falls of Fender. Birch, ash, and other trees crown the tops of the ridge, and springing from the stages of the rocks with a profusion of hazel, Guelder rose, and other shrubs, completely overshadow the water as it falls into the Tilt. The Fender is seen through a narrow recess, making a leap of about thirty feet; it then trickles in parted streamlets over four successive ledges of rock, projecting from the side of the bank of the Tilt. A detached portion of the burn escapes into the latter a few hundred yards below these falls, and constitutes what is called the York cascade. About a mile up the Fender is a third beautiful fall, well worthy of being seen.

Our space prevents us from quoting the well-known descriptions of the Royal hunting feats which of yore were held in Athole, and which, on a small scale, have been repeated even in modern times. Suffice it to say, that the forests here abound in all kinds of game common to this country, and that the Red Deer are greatly increasing, and may be seen marshalled in herds of many hundreds at a time. The deer on the Athole estates are computed to number about 15,000. The repose and utter stillness said to be requisite for these animals are inimical to agriculture, and even to sheep farming, and hence large tracts of the property are kept utterly waste and desolate. Even the botanist is now occasionally prevented from wandering so freely as he used to do over Ben-y-gloe, and the other high mountains of the district!

9. The road northward quits the vale of Athole, at a bend

about three miles past Blair, opposite the mansion-house and hamlet of Strowan, the ancient holding of the chief of the Clan Robertson—a name next to that of Stewart in this quarter, and an offshoot from which family *migrated* several hundred years ago to Inverness, and after rising to opulence as traffickers there, became the proprietors of the fine estate of Inshes near that town. Our way now keeps along the east bank of the river Garry, and gradually ascending, soon leaves the region of trees and cultivation behind, and enters upon the bleak and moorish wilds of Drumouchter, where nought but stunted grass and heather, dark swamp, impetuous torrents, grey rock, and frowning heights and precipices are to be seen. The mountains also are heavy, and seem broken into great detached mounds, rather than united in picturesque chains.

Even the comforts of the "Hospitium" of Dalnacardoch, as the inn has written over its door, can scarcely enliven the scene, and the traveller will always, as of yore, hasten on to get over this pass through the grampians—the Druim-albin or great back bone of Scotland—thankful if he be not stopped by a snow storm, of which the high posts painted black at top, and ranged at intervals along the road side, are rather too significant memorials.

Half way between Dalnacardoch and the next inn, Dalwhinnie (thirteen miles), the mountain streams part at the Badenoch *Boar* and the Athole *Sow*, as the two opposite mountains are named, some running eastward to join the Truim and the Spey, while others, by a longer circuit, fall into the Tay. This spot is the proper boundary between the counties of Inverness and Perth, and of the great districts of Athole and Badenoch, and the traveller will hereabouts see extensive sections of the gneiss rock, traversed by veins of large white-grained granite, of which the country for very many miles around is composed.

10. On the bleak surface of the moors there are numerous pillars and cairns, memorials of those who have perished in the snow, or fallen fighting for their homes and kindred. The marks of an encampment of a party of Cromwell's troops still exist at Dalnaspidal, a short way within the Perthshire boundary, where they received a check from the Athole men and some of the Camerons of Lochiel. Here, too, General Cope drew up his army, in expectation of being attacked by the Highlanders, in 1745, whilst they awaited him on the northern

side of Corryarrick ; and by his ill-advised manœuvre in quitting his post, and marching onwards, left the road open to the insurgents. And here, early in the year 1746, Lord George Murray planned and executed a series of attacks on various posts held by the royalists. A battalion of the Athole brigade, and a body of Macphersons commanded by their chief, Cluny, —that is to say common peasants, and a few country gentlemen without military experience,—under Lord George's directions, successfully surprised and carried twenty detached strong and defensible posts, all within two hours of the night ; and the different parties punctually met at the appointed place of rendezvous, though their operations lay in a rugged, mountainous country. Of this exploit, General Stewart of Garth, in his " Sketches," says, " I know not if the whole of the Peninsular campaigns exhibited a more perfect execution of a complicated piece of military service." Lord George had himself marched to the Bridge of Bruar, with twenty-five men and a few elderly gentlemen, when he was informed that Sir Andrew Agnew, who held the castle of Blair, was advancing with a strong force to reconnoitre. In the words of Home, " It was daylight ; but the sun was not up. Lord George, looking earnestly about him, observed a fold-dike (that is, a wall of turf) which had been begun as a fence for cattle, but left unfinished. He ordered his men to follow him, and draw up behind the dike, at such a distance one from another that they might make a great show, having the colours of both regiments flying in the front. He then gave orders to the pipers (for he had with him the pipers both of the Athole men and the Macphersons) to keep their eyes fixed on the road from Blair ; and the moment they saw the soldiers appear, to strike up with all their bagpipes at once. It happened that the regiments came in sight just as the sun rose, and that instant the pipers began to play one of the most noisy pibrochs. Lord George and his Highlanders, both officers and men, drawing their swords, brandished them about their heads. Sir Andrew, after gazing awhile at this spectacle, ordered his men to the right-about, and marched them back to the Castle of Blair. Lord George kept his post till several of his parties came in ; and as soon as he had collected 300 or 400 men, secure of victory, and certain that his numbers would very soon be greater, he marched to Blair, and invested the castle."

11. Two or three miles below the shooting lodge of Dalnaspidal, at the east end of Loch Garry, and the opening along which affords an interesting view of *Schihallion* and the mountains towards Loch Rannoch and Loch Tay, a large stone stands on the right-hand side of the road, with the year 1729 carved upon it. It was here that the troops, who formed the lines of road from the opposite points of Inverness and Dunkeld, met one another; and thus marked the spot and date when and where they finished their labours.

The new road formed by the Parliamentary Commissioners for Highland roads and bridges, follows nearly the same line as the old military one observed; and, from its position, and the undulating nature of the ground, it is occasionally liable to be blocked up in winter with snow. No greater quantities accumulate, however, than are frequently encountered on the coast roads; and it is unquestionable that, if the pass of Drumouchter were a little better inhabited than it is at present, there would be no difficulty in keeping open the passage at all times of the year; and, even at present, this route is not nearly so often obstructed by snow as the coast road from Aberdeen to Inverness. (See section 1, page 50, as to the railway projected to pass in this direction.)

12. A few miles more, and we descry the Inn of Dalwhinnie, partly surrounded, like the wells of the desert, with the verdure of a larch plantation, the only green and pleasing sight on which the eye can rest for many miles around. "But who shall praise Dalwhinnie?" as Dr. Macculloch says: "no one but the commissioners who built it, and who desire you to be thankful that you have a place to put your head in." If the rain or snow do not urge the traveller to get forward on his journey, the coldness of the climate, and the appearance of the red grouse and of the alpine plants here growing close by the roadside, should do so. From the inn, however, which is comfortably kept by Mr. Grant, who has also a due supply of post-horses, chaises, gigs, and dog-carts, a glimpse should be taken of the mountain Benalder, situated on the north side of Loch Errocht, a small part of which is here visible. An extraordinary cave, or cage, as it is called by Home, exists in this mountain, in which Prince Charles Stuart found refuge for a short time, during his wanderings.*

* The tourist, if he has time, will be gratified by an excursion to Loch Errocht.

13. Taking leave of Dalwhinnie, whence the traveller, if bound for the west coast, assumes the road which branches off on the left, about half a mile on, for Catlodge (eight miles), and then proceeds by Loch Laggan, glad that he has got over a little more than *half* distance from Perth to Inverness, soon enters Glen Truim—a rough inclined plain, which descends rapidly towards Strathspey. At Ettridge Bridge (five miles from the last stage), the old military way left Glen Truim and proceeded in a direct line eastwards through Glenfernisdale to the barracks of Ruthven opposite Kingussie—keeping all the way along a fine gravel terrace, and considerably shorter than the present line of road, which makes a detour to secure a foundation of *rock* for a bridge across the Spey. The old road (which every pedestrian at least should follow) is overhung with beautiful birch woods ; and indications of the country's having been at one time thickly peopled are everywhere visible in the numerous sites of cottages, the ploughed ridges, and the vast quantities of stones piled up (now grass-covered mounds), which were gathered off the fields ! Hundreds of families have thus made way for the sheep of a few large tenants ; and if the inquisitive stranger should enquire who those tenants are here and elsewhere in Badenoch, he will find that chiefly they are majors and captains, who, at the instigation of the late celebrated Jane, Duchess of Gordon, served in the Penin-

which is twenty miles long by about one mile broad. It is the highest of the great chain of Perthshire lakes, the combined waters of which supply the Tay ; but being very little depressed below Dalwhinnie Inn, it could almost be drained into the Truim, and would thence flow into the Spey. Thus it occupies the summit level of the country (about 1500 feet above the sea), and the numerous parallel *terraces* and *gravel banks* seen here in all directions, shew that even the highest of the Grampian ridges and valleys were once submerged beneath the ocean. The north side of the lake, for about six miles down, is flanked by a high grassy hill sloping gently down to the water's edge, after which succeed the rough precipices of Ben Alder. On the south side there is a greater intermixture of rock and wood, and the lower end of the lake conducts to the desolate and dreary swamps of the Moor of Rannoch. The Marquis of Abercorn rents all the northern hills from Cluny Macpherson as a deer forest, and at the base of Ben Alder his Lordship has a shooting lodge, communicating by a country road with his residence at Ardverackie, on Loch Laggan, where her Majesty and Prince Albert passed the autumn of 1848.

Formerly, before the dismemberment of the Duke of Gordon's Highland estates, the southern side of Loch Errocht was used by his Grace's tenants of Dalwhinnie and Breachachy as the *summer shealing* of their cattle ; and the north side by Cluny's tenants for the same purpose. At that time, about seventy years ago, from £10 to £15 of rent were paid yearly for what now yields at least ten times as much. The sites of the herds' huts or bothies are still visible, and the piles of stones heaped near them, are the imperishable memorials of their presence, and of the attempts which they made to improve the pastures. Black cattle and horses were then the sole stocks of these Highland tenants. Sheep were few, and kept only in small flocks near the houses, for their wool and mutton for domestic use ; and in summer the ewes were milked daily, a practice which prompted some of our most beautiful and tender pastoral songs.

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sular war, or received honourable scars at Waterloo, and who, on the return of peace, took, at high rents, extensive tracts of their native soil, where, in general, they have not made rich by farming.

14. Descending now rapidly by the post road along the birch-clad banks of the Truim, Glen Truim House (Macpherson) is seen on a high ridge on the left, and immediately to the east of it rises the lofty serrated mountain of Craigdhu (the Black Rock), the ancient natural beacon of the district, overlooking the countries of Laggan, Badenoch, and Strathspey, with an enormous circuit of the Grampian and Monaliagh mountains, and which is the rendezvous or gathering hill of the clan Macpherson. At the farther extremity of this hill the rivers Truim and Spey unite, the public road crossing a little way below their junction by an old military bridge of three arches, and then dividing into two, the main branch continues northwards past the poor hamlet or village of Newtonmore, and the other fork turns westward on its course by Cluny and Loch Laggan for Fort-William and the west coast. (See Route I. D.)

15. At Invernahavon, near the junction of the rivers just named, a celebrated clan battle was fought, in the reign of James I., between the Mackintoshes and Camerons. The lands of Mackintosh, in Lochaber, were possessed by a set of Camerons, who always refused to pay their rents, which were accordingly levied by force, and consisted principally of cattle. Acknowledging no right but that of occupancy, and provoked by the seizure of their herds, the Camerons at length resolved on making reprisals; and they, therefore, poured down upon Badenoch above 400 strong, headed by a Charles Macgilony. The Laird of Mackintosh, thus obliged to call out his followers, soon appeared with a force sufficient for the emergency. The Davidsons of Invernahavon and the Macphersons of Cluny contended for the right hand in the line of battle; and Mackintosh, as umpire, having decided in favour of the former, the whole clan Macpherson withdrew from the field in discontent. From the equality of numbers thus created, the conflict was sharp and bloody; many of the Mackintoshes, and almost all the Davidsons, were killed. The Macphersons, provoked at seeing their brave kinsmen nearly overpowered, rushed in, and totally defeated the Camerons, whose leader they pursued to Glen

Benchar, and overtook and slew him on a hill still called by his name, Corharlich, or Charles' hill.

16. Three miles on we reach the good inn and village of Kingussie, the latter having no trade or manufactures, and yet possessing a large pauperized population, chiefly thrown in upon it by the successive *clearings* of the adjoining districts. It was commenced, on the precincts of an ancient monastery, about the end of the last century, by the Duke of Gordon, with the view of introducing the spinning of wool and the manufacture of woollen cloths, which have not succeeded, and the inhabitants are now entirely dependent for employment on the neighbouring corn and sheep farmers. The Court House, Churches, Bank (a branch of the British Linen Company), and many of the private dwellings, as well as the Inn, are, however, substantially built of the beautiful grey and white granite, in which the district abounds. Among the privations of the poor people the scarcity of fuel is often severely felt in winter, as some of the most accessible *peat mosses* are nearly exhausted, and the cost of carting coals so far inland is beyond their means; yet, we regret to say, that the consumpt of *whisky* here, and in all the Highland villages, is most inordinate and disgraceful. James Evan Baillie, Esq., of Culduthel and Glenelg, formerly of Bristol, is also the proprietor of the Kingussie estate, which he bought on the demise of the late Duke of Gordon. His possessions extend now over a principal part of the great lordship of Badenoch. More anciently this was also the land of the Cumings, a family which ruled here with a rod of iron during the reigns of the early Scottish sovereigns, especially the Alexanders. Their fortresses, as at Lochan Eilan and Lochindhorb, were numerous, extensive, and strong; and the style of building employed in them can even yet be distinguished from that of the common baronial peels of the country.

The part which this family took in the wars between Bruce and Baliol, and the extent to which they even attempted to push their own pretensions to the crown, are well known. Their subsequent misfortunes paved the way for the friends of Robert I., who were installed into their possessions by this prince and his immediate successors. Extensive tracts of country were conferred on Randolph, Earl of Moray, and the Lord Seneschal, brother of the king, and on the famous Wolf of

Badenoch, natural son of Robert II., on whom also were bestowed those most extraordinary powers of barony and regality by which the influence of the crown in the Highlands was almost annihilated. But various donations were also granted to certain individuals known as "*kindly tenants*" of the king, who held them during his pleasure, and likewise to churchmen, through whose subinfeudations several independent though inferior families became established in the country. A constant struggle was hence maintained between these and their powerful neighbours, as was strongly illustrated in the history of the clan Gregor. The Shaws of Rothiemurchus were also particularly conspicuous in this respect. They were independent of all the great lords; and held their *duchus*, or estate, of the bishops of Moray, for the supply only of a certain quantity of tapers, and of wood for the occasional repair of Elgin cathedral.

In later times, the Dukes of Gordon ruled over Badenoch. The Mackintoshes and Grants have also territories in this district; and to the westward the parish of Laggan belongs principally to that important division of the clan Chattan, the Macphersons, of whom Macpherson of Cluny is the chief.

17. Extensive and costly embankments along the Spey commence near Kingussie, and extend down several miles till the river loses itself in Loch Insh, on its way to which it winds through a succession of most beautiful meadow haughs, where the natural grass is carefully cut and preserved as hay, and along which there are numerous pools, abounding in water-fowl, and covered over by tall reeds and water lilies. A wooden bridge has recently been erected south of the west end of the village, communicating with the south bank of the Spey, and with an excellent district road to Rothiemurchus, which the tourist will find to abound in magnificent views; and if the approaches to this bridge could be well protected from the over-flowings of the river, the public road should cross here by a stone bridge and proceed southwards by the direct line through Glenfernisdale, already alluded to. Before the erection of this bridge, the right bank of the Spey could only be reached by a ferry below the village, whence a broad piece of marshy meadow had to be passed ere the solid ground adjoining the Mount of Ruthven was attained.

18. This mount has the ruins of an old barrack on it, which

have an imposing appearance, but which were much inferior in strength and size to the more ancient castle which they displaced, and which belonged to the wild Cumings, Earls of Badenoch. Queen Mary frequently visited this castle, that she might enjoy the pleasures of the chase in the adjoining forests. The barrack, built of its stones in 1718, was defended against a whole Highland host, by twelve men, under the command of a Serjeant Mulloy, in February 1746, when the rebels set it on fire; and it was at this place that the chiefs reassembled their forces, to the number of 8000, two days subsequent to the battle of Culloden, in the hopes of Prince Charles again taking the field.

Ruthven was also celebrated of old for a good inn and an excellent school; and the tourist who has time should by no means pass it without a visit, as the mount commands a most magnificent view, especially of the course of the Spey, and of the many curious gravel terrace banks which line it on both sides, and which are here elevated about 1000 feet above the sea.

19. Continuing now along the left bank of the river, the road passes in front of the mansion-house and lawn of Belleville (Miss Macpherson), where, on a little knoll by the wayside, may be seen a small obelisk, erected in memory of the former proprietor, Macpherson, the first translator of Ossian's Poems, and whose fame as an original poet, or as a mere compiler, has been the subject of much discussion. His residence occupies the site of the ancient Castle of Raits, another, and the principal stronghold of the great family of the Cumings. An incident which occurred at this castle is worth recounting. Cuming, one of the old proprietors, jealous of a neighbouring chieftain (the Laird of Mackintosh), invited him and his kindred to a great banquet, disguising, under the mask of hospitality, the atrocious purpose of slaughtering his guests unawares. The company were to be so arranged at table as that the Mackintoshes should be separated from one another, and the appearance of a boar's head was to be the signal for each Cuming to stab the stranger who sat beside him. Mackintosh discovered the plot; nevertheless, he accepted the invitation, having previously informed his clansmen of the signal, and bade them anticipate their treacherous entertainers. Accordingly, when the feast waxed high, the boar's head was introduced. The Mackintoshes seized the moment; and with the

barbarity and decision common in those dark and bloody days, inflicted the most ample and speedy revenge on their foes.

20. Our route now continues through birch-clad knolls and small farms, formerly the abodes of a numerous and warlike peasantry, followers of the Gordon, "The Cock of the North," with a few gentlemen's residences (as Kincraig and Invereshie), scattered at wide intervals. Cairngorm, Ben Macdhui, and the central group of the Grampians, lift their huge sides and summits on the right, and we see long stretches of the vast solitudes which surround them, terminating in the deer corries and precipices which lie concealed in the deep shadows of the mountains. To the stranger will be pointed out the high passes of Gaick and Minikaig, which abound in red deer and game of all kinds, and where many a life has been lost in the snow, on their journeys, of smugglers, drovers, and of the peasantry, by these short cuts to the Lowlands. (See Branch c. to this Route.) In front the high rocky crag which rises before us is Tor Alvie; and the woods and fields which sweep round it are parts of the pleasure-grounds of Kinrara, the favourite seat of the late Duchess, and of her son George, the last of the Dukes of Gordon. On the eastern brow of the Tor is a rustic hermitage, commanding a most extensive view of the valley of the Spey; and at the other extremity of the ridge, an enormous cairn of stones records the fame of the heroes of Waterloo; and above has been superadded a monument to the Duke of Gordon's memory.

21. Loch Alvie next presents itself on the left of the landscape, with its neat manse and church standing on a peninsula near the west end. Clumps of trees and corn-fields grace its margin; and on quitting them, the house and grounds of Rothiemurchus come into view on the opposite side of the Spey. It has been remarked, that Loch Alvie is one of the thousand lakes one meets with in the Highlands, with no very conspicuous features, yet possessing beauties such as language can rarely describe. "It is the pellucid water murmuring on the pebbly shore, the dark rock reflected on the grassy surface, or dancing on the undulating wave, the wild water-plants, the broken bank, the bending ash, the fern, the bright flowers, and all the poetry of the margent green, which give to these scenes a feeling that even painting cannot reach; a beauty that belongs to nature alone, because it is the beauty of life; a beauty that

flies with the vital principle that was its soul and its all." The scenery hereabouts has been described by none more beautifully or correctly than by the author from whom we have just quoted (Dr. Macculloch.) "A succession of continuous birch forest, covering Kinrara's rocky hill and its lower grounds, intermixed with open glades, irregular clumps, and scattered trees, produces a scene at once alpine and dressed; combining the discordant characters of wild mountain landscape and of ornamental park scenery, while the variety is at the same time such as is only found in the most extended domains." In an old burying-ground at a short distance from the house of Kinrara, which is dedicated to Saint Eda, stands a handsome granite monument, erected to the memory of Jane, late Duchess of Gordon, who herself chose this picturesque spot as her last resting-place.

22. The beautiful and bold projecting frontlet of Craigelachie now comes prominently into view on the left. It separates Badenoch from Strathspey; was the hill of rendezvous for the people of the latter, and the boundary and ancient ward-hill of the district. "Stand fast, Craigelachie!" is the war or gathering cry of the clan Grant, the occupants of this great strath. From its swelling base and rifted precipices, the birch trees wave in graceful clusters; their bright and lively green forming a strong contrast in the foreground to the sombre melancholy hue of the pine forests, which in the distance, on the south, stretch up the sides of Glenmore and the Cairngorms.* In the eastern front of the hill stands the high old steep-roofed, but comfortable Inn of Aviemore, where the tourist should stop, if he means to explore the district or to visit Cairngorm and the other scenes described in Branches c. and d. of this Route. In clear calm weather the majesty of our Highland scenery is nowhere felt more impressively. The Grampians are here magnificent in their bulk, and elegant as well as varied in their outlines, while in the elevated summit of Ben Macdhui, they rival Ben Nevis itself.

Strathspey's proud river also, the broad rolling waters of which every way befit the majestic scenery through which they flow, occupies the middle of the spacious valley before us. Now, it slowly moves through dark and deep linns; now, rush-

* In the small lake behind the Inn of Aviemore, at the base of Craigelachie, the botanist will find quantities of *Nuphar minima*, the smallest and rarest of British water lilies. On the neighbouring hill he will likewise discover several alpine plants, as *Alchemilla alpina*, *Rumex dyginus*, *Saxifraga aizoides* and *S. hypnoides*, &c.

ing over a wide gravelly bed, it shows, by the rents in the soil, and the sudden bends in its course, the strength and fury of its wintry floods. Its banks are occasionally fringed with rows of birch and alder; but anon, the silvery line of its waters will be seen shooting into some thick and dark grove of pine trees, again to emerge far away by the side of cultivated fields and humble hamlets. The appearance, in short, of the strath, which is now visible for twelve miles of its course, transports the imagination to the days of Roman warfare, or to the woody solitudes of America. Till within a few years, Strathspey might have been described as a plain covered with pristine forests, laid open occasionally by the sweeps of a large river, and by the deep indentations of its alpine tributaries; for its surface has been but recently touched by the hand of man.

23. Between Aviemore and the next stage, Carr Bridge (eight miles), the road cuts across a portion of Morayshire, and again re-enters Inverness-shire. In this space it passes along a series of undulating knolls, containing between them many small lakes or tarns, abounding in water fowl, and on one of which are the ruins of an old castle. The road afterwards goes through a small portion of the ancient pine forest of Dulnan, where the size and fantastic forms of the native tree may still be seen in perfection, and where occasionally the traveller may suddenly come upon numerous black cock and the small fairy red squirrel. Half way he passes on the right a district road striking off to Grantown and the lower portions of Strathspey, and on crossing the rapid river Dulnan to the comfortable little Inn of Carr Bridge, he meets another branch of the same road coming northward from Strathspey.—(See Branch D. Route II.)

24. Turning now to the left, the road passes over the remains of part of the ancient Caledonian forest, which was burnt down by general Wade to insure an easy access to Inverness; and which, if again enclosed by the proprietor, the Earl of Seafield, would soon send up a plentiful stock of fir trees to cover the nakedness of these most dreary wastes; and so we hasten on towards Strathdearn, or the country watered by the river Findhorn. But the deep and anciently dangerous pass of Slochmuichk (the wild boar's den or hollow) is on before us (about three miles), now to be dreaded only as the last spot where snow is likely to be encountered to any great depth on

one's journey northwards during winter. It was at one time a favourite haunt of banditti, some of whom, even for years after the suppression of the rebellion of 1745, continued to infest the passage by the Grampians to the low country.

This pass was also particularly noted as having been the occasional resort (about the middle of last century) of Mackintosh of Borlum, a property near Inverness, who was a man of education and respectable family, of insinuating manners, but of a character not unlike that of his contemporary, Simon, Lord Lovat. He had a good deal of the old mercenary soldier about him, with an air of French politeness which was common to the Highland gentlemen of the period; and though secretly leagued with a gang of desperadoes, he continued for a long time to deceive the public, and lull the suspicions of his friends. His history is well known, and is depicted in Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's interesting novel of Lochandhu. His last exploit, which compelled him to flee from the country, was an attempt to rob Sir Hector Monro of Novar, on his journey northwards, after his return from India, in the year 1770. Three of his accomplices, one of them his own natural brother, were seized and hanged at Inverness. Mackintosh is said to have gone to America, and served under General Washington; and a report prevails that he revisited his native country some years ago. Another celebrated freebooter was John Gunn; a personage in whom were combined the rude manners of the bandit, with the more generous sentiments of chivalry. His ordinary abode was among the wild recesses of Strathspey, in the neighbourhood of Cairngorm and Aviemore. At the same period, the vicinity of Shian, of Invergarry, and the confines of Lochaber, were tenanted by a savage tribe of Kennedys, who levied tribute over an extended range of country. David Scrymgeour of Birkhill, and Alexander Campbell of Delnies, successively sheriffs-depute of Inverness-shire, after the suppression of the insurrection in 1746, failed, though repeated were their endeavours, to extirpate these mauraders; and when Simon Fraser, Esq. of Farraline, was appointed successor to Mr. Campbell, in May 1781, he found the state of police totally inefficient, and property incapable of protection on any other ground than by the voluntary payment to the heads of the robber troops of either money or cattle; *black mail*, as in the remotest ages, being, in fact, thus demanded and agreed to. Mr. Fraser, who had quitted a

military life to embrace that of the gown, at the desire of his chief, General Fraser of Lovat, with whom he had served in the American war, set himself earnestly to work to effect the total suppression of such an alarming evil. With the assistance of a stout and courageous Highlander, Mr. John Mackay, sheriff-officer at Fort-Augustus, as his aide-de-camp, and by unremitted perseverance, he finally effected his purpose; traversing with his faithful adherent the most inaccessible districts, repeatedly incurring personal danger in many shapes, and having been more than once fired upon in his hazardous journeys. So imminent was the risk he ran, that he rarely moved from home without a brace of pistols on his person. Acting on the old adage, "Set a thief to catch a thief," he nominated Donald Mhor Oig Cameron, in Blairroy of Lochaber, himself a notorious *cateran*, as one of the constables of the county, and engaged his good offices on the side of order. By his aid, the whole tribe of the Kennedys was hunted down and dispersed, one being hanged at Inverness, and others being banished beyond seas. Two were secured near Callander by a masterly manœuvre of Mr. Mackay, who had tracked them thus far. They were drinking in a change-house, when he suddenly entered and called on them to submit, as escape was impossible. They credited his tale, and quietly allowed themselves to be handcuffed, when he led them off prisoners: but no words can paint their rage and mortification, on finding they had fallen victims to stratagem, and that their captor was unattended. Another important ally to Mr. Fraser, in discovering the haunts of the Kennedys, was Donald Dhu Piddick (as his sobriquet went), in the Braes of Lochaber, a man somewhat above the vulgar, and intimately acquainted with the habits of the people.

25. Emerging from Slochmuichk, we now enter the district of Strathdearn, and after crossing the river Findhorn two miles on, we reach the inn of Freeburn, where we again come in sight of the Findhorn, sweeping with rapid pace through a series of alluvial banks and terraces, which occupy the whole of the plain between the observer and the base of the opposite mountains. To the east the river is lost sight of, as it plunges into a dark ravine called the Streens, from the sides of which rise precipitous mountains of granite. (See Branch E. Route II.) About a mile south of Freeburn, a country road branches off to

the interior of Strathdearn, and the upper reaches of the Findhorn, which all belong to gentlemen of the clan Mackintosh. (See Route II. Branches E. and F.)

26. The road now descends rapidly towards Inverness, and three miles on, after passing a hard gravelly ridge, covered with a dense fir wood, we come suddenly on Loch Moy, about 450 feet above the sea, with Moy Hall, the residence of Mackintosh of Mackintosh, chief of the clan, fronting us at the farther extremity. This lake, with its trees and island, are, as has been observed by Dr. Macculloch, "as a gleam of sunshine in a cloudy day; yet one that renders the adjoining waste darker and more dreary." Of its island, and its castle, the seat of the chief of the ancient and powerful clan Chattan, there is no lack of legendary story; and in recounting the old clan fights, as detailed by Sir Robert Gordon—"the Curse of Moy," as preserved in song—and the heroism of its lady and its blacksmith, who saved Prince Charles in 1746—the stranger will have enough to muse on as he hastens by its low and woody shores. Besides the main island, fortress, and parterre, "where many a garden flower still grows wild," there is a small islet of loose stones (said to be artificial) near the southern end of the lake, which formed the chieftain's prison-house. A handsome granite obelisk, seventy feet high, on a base of about twenty feet square, has been erected on the largest island, to the memory of the late Sir Æneas Mackintosh, Bart., chief of the clan. On the west side of Loch Moy are the church and manse of the parish; and at the north end, Moy Hall, the principal residence of the chief of Mackintosh, who has erected, hard by, a small but convenient inn for the use of the public.

27. Hence we descend rapidly from Strathdearn to Strathnairn, the valley watered by the river Nairn, and passing the inn of Craggy (six miles from Inverness), and the road which leads westwards to the district of Stratherrick (see Route II. Branch F.), we cross the river at a sharp angle, and then breast the hill of Daviot, crowned at top by the site of an old ward or beacon fort, and having below the ungainly church and manse of the parish. A little eastwards is the house of Daviot (Æneas Mackintosh, Esq.) on the site of a very ancient castle of that name, past which a distant view is obtained of the lower parts of Strathnairn, of the policies of Kilravock and of the Thane (now

Earl) of Cawdor, and of the plains of Nairn and Moray. Immediately thereafter the waters of the "bright, bright sea" of the German ocean are descried with delight, and upon the verge of the horizon the Ord of Caithness and the dim outlines of the finely peaked chain of mountains which separate that county from Sutherlandshire. To the right hand, on the same level with the spectator, and at a distance of about a couple of miles, lies the moor of Culloden, famous in story. Directly below, the Moray and Beauly Firths display their winding shores, and the fertile tracts of corn and woodland skirting them, over which the Ross-shire, the Strathconan and Strathglass mountains, with the huge Ben Wyvis in the centre, and beautifully peaked summits to the west and south-west of it, are spread out in glorious majesty. The Great Glen of Scotland also opens up on the left hand, terminated in the west, so far as the eye can penetrate "into the bowels of the land," by the beautiful dome-shaped mountain of Mealfourvounie; and in front, just beneath the rough and wooded escarpments of the vitrified fortress of Craig Phadrick, we descry the smoke of Inverness—the low-lying Highland capital, with its castle, spires, and shipping. This is altogether a magnificent scene. (For a full description of Inverness see Section IV.)

ROUTE SECOND.—BRANCH A.

FROM CRIEFF AND GREENLOANING STATION, BY LOCHEARNHEAD, KILLIN, AND KENMORE, TO TUMMEL-BRIDGE AND BLAIR, AND BY ABERFELDY TO DUNKELD; AND BY CURRIEMUCKLACH AND ABERFELDY TO DALNACARDOCH.

Strathearn; Crieff, 1.—Drummond Castle, 2.—Ferntower; Monument to Sir David Baird, 3.—Roman Camps at Ardoch, 4.—Ardoch to Crieff; Muthil, 5.—Monzie; Seats on direct Perth Road, 6.—Glen Almond; Pass to the Highlands by Amulree, 7.—Crieff to Comrie; Ochtertyre; Glen Turret, 8.—Comrie; Devil's Caldron, 9.—Comrie to Loch Earn; Aberuchill Castle; Dalchonzie; Dunira, 10.—St. Fillan's; Sept M'Neish, 11.—Loch Earn; Falls of Edinample, 12.—Loch Tay; Killin, 13.—Finlarig; Falls of the Lochy, 14.—Drummond Hill; Falls of Acharn, 15.—Kenmore; Taymouth Castle; Pleasure-grounds, 16.—Fortingal; Remarkable Yew Tree; Comrie Castle, 17.—Glen Lyon, 18.—*Cushirille to Kinloch Rannoch; Tummel Bridge; Dalnacardoch, and Falls of Tummel*, 19.—Castle Menzies, 20.—Falls of Aberfeldy, 21.—Aberfeldy to Dunkeld; Grandtully Castle, 22.

	Miles.
Comrie	6½
St. Fillan's	5½
Lochearnhead	8
Killin	7
Kenmore	16
Aberfeldy	6
Grandtully Arms	7
Dunkeld	10
	66

Aberfeldy by Lochearnhead	49
Cushiville	6
Kinloch Rannoch	13
Tummel Bridge	7
Do. direct from Cushiville	10
Dalnacardoch	10
Falls of Tummel	10
	85

Crieff to Curriemucklach	11
Amulree	1
Aberfeldy	11
	23

1. The district of Strathearn, which intersects the southern portion of Perthshire, in a winding line nearly due east and west, joining Strath Tay at Perth, is one of the most fertile and highly embellished tracts our country has to boast of. Crieff has always been regarded as the capital of this beautiful valley. It stands on the brow of a terrace forming the haunch of an eminence of some pretensions, and overlooks a reach of Strathearn, here of great width, presenting a very extensive level expanse of country in a high state of cultivation. Sheltered from the easterly winds by a wooded hill, it has long been noted for the salubrity of its climate, and it is supplied with water of peculiar purity. It enjoys a remarkable freedom from deadly epidemics, and the banks of the Earn are among the favoured localities which have been spared the scourge of the cholera. To the westward the country south of the Earn gradually rises in wooded slopes towards the massive larch and pine-covered hill of Turleum, on the south side of a succeeding and narrower reach of the strath. The town consists of three main streets, concentrating in a neat square, adorned by a well surrounded by lime trees. On the north side is the principal hotel (the

Drummond Arms—Robertson).* An ancient stone cross in the street leading eastward well merits the antiquary's attention, though its history is unknown. In the same direction is an institution, for the education chiefly of young ladies connected with the Episcopal church, called St. Margaret's College, of which the bishop of the diocese is visitor. It forms a pleasing feature in the entrance from Perth. The accommodation and arrangements are, we believe, such as ensure a due amount of solid instruction, and of polished accomplishments, combined with domestic privacy and comfort. At the opposite end of the town a handsome massive lodge attracts the eye, with a neat Episcopal church close by.

Crieff is rich in historical associations, and is a place of very respectable antiquity; the earliest notice, however, occurring in a charter dated in 1218. From a very early period it was the accustomed court place of the Seneschals of Strathearn, whose very ancient earldom was our only County Palatine. The Perth family became heritable stewards of Strathearn in 1488. They were noted for their stern or sanguinary judicial administration. The huge iron stocks in which many a cateran did penance for his larcenies are still preserved, as also the far-famed "kind gallows of Crieff," referred to in Waverley, on passing which the Highlanders used to touch their bonnets, with the ejaculation, "*God bless her nain sell, and the Teil tamn you.*"

The neighbourhood of Crieff presents within a narrow compass, as has been said with truth, quite a galaxy of aristocratic mansion houses. Is it owing to a consequent impress of exclusiveness on the otherwise courteous proprietors, that one is struck by the equally marked absence of the villas of the middle classes, the usual concomitants of a respectable town? A stingy denial of feuing sites is one of the most ungracious and unworthy acts possible on the part of landed proprietors; and the good folks of Crieff have well grounded cause of complaint of the privations, in the midst of "enough and to spare," to which they are subjected in this respect, and which cannot but operate as a hindrance to the improvement and increase of the place.

2. Of the country seats the most distinguished is Drum-

* Among the stage coaches from and to Crieff in all directions, Mr. Robertson of the Drummond Arms has started a daily mail coach to Lochearnhead and Killin, and we believe to Callander, which is a valuable contribution to the public accommodation. A coach, in connexion, runs between Killin and Loch Lomond. Also one from Crieff by Amulree to Dunkeld. The distance from Edinburgh or Glasgow to Fort-William or Oban, *via Crieff*, can be accomplished in *one* day.

mond Castle (Lord and Lady Willoughby de Eresby) four miles distant. The castle surmounts a rocky eminence, in the midst of a park of the most spacious dimensions, " a waste of lawn and pasture" skirting the ample sloping base of Turleum with its mantle of larch. Gentle hill, shelving dale, and undulating slopes diversify the policies, which extend two miles either way,

Drummond Castle.

dotted with clumps and noble avenues of aged timber. The pastures are alive with hundreds of red and fallow deer, which gaze upon the stranger or bound away from his advancing steps; while on the north an extensive artificial sheet of water, encircled by fine oaks, with foliage depending to the water's

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edge, presents its troops of stately and graceful swans and other waterfowl. Matchless flower gardens, well known by repute to every florist, lie on the south side of the castle rock. Figures intricately mingled, but "not without a plan," and mathematically cut in sward of velvet smoothness, interspersed with groups of statuary, form an extensive level parterre, which is connected by a shelving bank of shrubbery to a terrace and an esplanade, which leads by an archway into the castle court. The inhabited portion, an irregular range of building, rises abruptly from the edge of the rock. To the quadrangular space in front, the main access is across a half-moon court at the further end, formed by the ruins of an old square keep and its accessories, to an arched outer entrance under which, the approach has been cut through rock. Towering as it thus does above a demesne of such exquisite character, itself the centre of an expanse of rich and profusely wooded country, with the Grampians in sight on the north, Drummond Castle may well be pronounced, in the words of Macculloch, "absolutely unrivalled in the low country, and only exceeded in the Highlands by Dunkeld and Blair."

James the Fourth, the merry and chivalrous monarch, frequently visited Drummond Castle, and the tragic story of the fair but ill-fated Margaret Drummond is a well-known incident in early Scottish gossip. Her present Majesty and Prince Albert also honoured it with their presence in September 1842.

3. Strangers may be gratified at Ferntower House, within a mile of the town, with a sight of Tippoo Saib's sword, presented to Sir David Baird at Seringapatam, and of a great painting by Wilkie of the "Finding of the Body of Tippoo" after the storming of that important fortress, in which Sir David Baird bore a conspicuous part.

Among other of the delightful walks and excursions which the neighbourhood presents, "Lady Mary's Green Walk," along the banks of the Earn, conducts to Tomnachastle—a fine wooded eminence, three miles from Crieff, on which an obelisk of Aberdeen granite, 84 feet high, has been erected to Sir David's memory. The view from the Knock of Crieff is also worthy of attention, and, if time permit, that from the top of Turleum will be found still more commanding and interesting.

4. Before quitting this locality we are tempted to wander a few miles further south, and make room for a somewhat de-

tailed description of the celebrated Roman Camps at Ardoch, in Strathallan, a district shelving down to Dunblane and the Bridge of Allan, which, immediately connected as they were with the gallant and patriotic struggles of our brave Highland ancestors, and unquestionably the most entire specimen of Roman castramentation in Scotland, and we believe in Britain, can hardly be deemed out of place. They are said to have been the Castra Stativa of Agricola, when on this side of Bodotria, skirmishing with the hardy sons of Caledonia, under the leadership of Galgacus.

Since the opening of the line of the Scottish Central Railway, the *Greenloaning Station* has been regarded as one of the principal starting points to the Western Highlands of Perthshire. To meet the convenience of travellers, stage-coaches ply thrice a day to Muthil and Crieff, and private conveyances are also in attendance on the trains. And the line of road leading between Greenloaning and Crieff (11 miles), runs through a tract of country of great natural beauty—rich with historical associations. Shortly after passing the village of Braco (1 mile), and ascending the rising ground beyond the bridge which crosses the *Knaick*, the road leads right through the Camps.

The extensive space occupied by the camps consists of four departments. The position was happily selected for defence; on the west the Camp was safely protected by the abrupt steep rising from the river Knaick, and having two fossae between it and the banks; on the south by a deep morass, which extended a considerable way eastward, with its two fossae also; and on the east and north by deep intrenchments of five ditches and six ramparts parallel to the station; all of which were doubtless amply sufficient to guard those within, and to ward off the assaults of a besieging army. The area of the *station within* the intrenchments may still be seen, and is of an oblong form, 420 feet by 375, with its four sides nearly facing the cardinal points of the compass. The place of the Prætorium or general's quarter is a regular square of sixty feet in the side, in the rear or part furthest distant from the enemy; but it is marked off rather irregularly, for on inspection it is not found to be exactly in the middle between the gates, nor parallel with those of the station. It is however elevated above the general level of the ground, and appears to have been enclosed by a stone wall. Within this, also, there are the foundations of a building 30

feet by 27, which gives some probability to the conjecture that there was a place of worship once here, which is still called the Chapel Hill.*

Of the four gates which belonged to the Roman Station, three only are now to be distinguished, the fourth being scarcely traceable. Fronting the Prætorium is the Prætorian Gate, crossing the north lines in an oblique direction. Opposite to that gate, and behind the Prætorium where the Decuman Gate should be, is a road leading out of the Camp, which may have been the Decuman ; and onwards to the right and left of the Prætorium are to be seen the two, which were called principal gates, as being at the ends of the principal street which crossed the camp in front of the Prætorium. Upon the Polybean system of castramentation, this fort would accommodate 1200 men.

Immediately adjacent to the north side of the station, is the Procestrium or Pro-castrum (for a camp), or an addition to the other, as probably used by Agricola, for containing his baggage, when he thought of dividing his army into three parts, in order to watch the movements of Galgacus, and fight him from the neighbouring hills. This Procestrium seems to have been strongly fortified, and a subsequent work to the other, for part of the area of the Great Camp was included in it ; but its intrenchments are levelled by the plough, while the corner of the former is yet visible. Its south gate is also to be seen, as connecting it with the station, and this again with the fragments of another gate on the north side. It was of an oblong shape, consisting of 1060 feet by 900, and capable of accommodating 4000 men.

North west of the Procestrium is the Great Camp, so styled from its size. Its mean length is 2800 feet, and its mean breadth 1950 ; it would, therefore, according to the Polybean system, hold about 26,000 men ; and this was what induced General

* There is a deeply imbedded subterranean apartment which had probably been a water-tank, somewhere below the Prætorium, out of which at one period a number of Roman helmets, spears, and other memorials were recovered. But the search was interrupted by the foulness of the air. The opening of the aperture having been afterwards shut up, all subsequent attempts to find it have proved unavailing. Many stone coffins have been found at different times in digging about the camps, or near them, and some of the skeletons contained in them are said to have been of an uncommon size. Among others in a stone coffin found about a mile west from the camps, a skeleton, seven feet long ; and a mile and a half distant, in the Muir of Orchil, another of the same length, in Cairn Woehil. These have generally been in cairns or heaps of stones.

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Roy to believe that it was in this camp that Agricola held his great army previous to his dividing it into three bodies, in order to meet and conquer the Caledonians.

The form of this camp is oblong, but not so regular as that of a parallelogram—a fact which seems to prove that the Romans did not adhere to mathematical nicety, where the nature of the ground did not well permit. The public road to the north, known of old as the military road, enters by its south gate, and so has cut down one-half of the epaulment which covered it; but the other half still remains rather entire. The north gate is a little east of the road, covered by a straight traverse, and another gate on the west is in the same way protected. On the east side, towards the north, there is a gate that has been defended, not only by a square redoubt, within the lines, but also by a clavicle—from which circumstance it may be supposed that a weak legion was there quartered.

On the west side of this Great Camp is a smaller one of an oblong shape. Its size is 1910 by 1340 feet, and it would afford accommodation for 12,000 men. To the antiquary this one is very interesting, especially in tracing the itinera of Agricola. It is evidently higher in position than the other camps; one-half of it lies within the other camp, which is adjacent to it; and the fact of its being left so very entire, would perhaps point to it as the abode of the third part of the Roman army that remained with their leader, whilst the others were encamped at Strageath, and Dealgin Ross, on the plains of Comrie; for the entireness of the camp serves to prove that it was the last occupied, and that Agricola left it in great haste with his third division, to aid the ninth legion, who were then almost subdued, in the Camp of Dealgin Ross. The camps are now enclosed within the grounds of Ardoch House, and carefully protected from further dilapidation.

5. Leaving the camp, and having gained the height to the north, the line of the military road formed by General Wade presents itself, and runs in a direct line over the Muir of *Curryover*. Shortly afterwards the turnpike diverges to the right, and on the summit of the Muir we reach the policies of Orchil House—(Gillespie Graham). After an easy descent the road at Bishop Bridge crosses the river Machany—a fine clearly-running stream, and noted in the district for its excellent trout-fishing.

Surmounting another height, we find ourselves at the poli-

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cies of Culdees Castle—(Speir). Here the extensive plain, richly wooded, and studded with noblemen's and gentlemen's seats—to the left the grounds of Drummond Castle, backed by Turleum, and the lofty Ben Voirlich—in the foreground the village of Muthil, imbedded in wood, with Crieff beyond, and the heights in front of which it stands, overtopped by the Grampian range, present a landscape of extreme beauty, variety, and grandeur. A mile further to the northward stands the thriving village of Muthil, with its population of 1300 souls. The Old (formerly Collegiate) Church is now roofless, but it still raises its time-worn tower high over the venerable *yews* which encircle its choir. This pile, according to Spottiswood, was built four centuries ago by Bishop Ochiltree. The tower is one of those usually ascribed to the artists of the ninth century.* The parish church, standing on a commanding site, is a fine specimen of the Gothic style. It was finished in 1828, at a cost of £6900, and is conveniently seated for 1600 persons. Passing through Muthil the wayfarer enters the magnificent avenue—composed of stately beeches, chesnut, and lime-trees—which embower the road to Crieff (three miles); and here and there the eye is attracted by a turret or a jutty of Drummond Castle half hid by the venerable elms,—

> ———"Whose boughs are mossed with age,
> And high tops bald with dry antiquity,"

which contest for a standing place in the clefts.

TO AMULREE AND ABERFELDY.

6. Before entering on the route to Lochearnhead, we may shortly notice the access to the Highlands by Amulree. On the way Monzie (Campbell) is passed, in which the paintings and armoury are worthy of observation, while the grounds are highly picturesque. They contain a few of the first larches brought to this country by the Duke of Athole, and, like those at Dunkeld, of great size—from eighteen to twenty feet in girth. After passing Gilmerton, the road ascends a steep acclivity, near the top of which a magnificent view westward, towards Comrie, is displayed. We may observe, that along the direct Perth road are a succession of fine seats and other objects of note—as Abercairney, (Major Moray Stirling); the ruins of

* It is square, and about 70 feet high, like that at Dunning, near Forteviot, the Scoto-Pictish capital. The Brechin and Abernethy towers are narrow and round.

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Inchaffray Abbey; Gorthy, (Mercer); Tippermalloch, (Smythe); Methven Castle, (Smythe), near which Bruce was defeated, June 19, 1306, by Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke; and Ruthven Castle—now called Huntingtower—the scene of the *Raid of Ruthven*.

7. Proceeding onwards from Monzie, the road passes for three miles along a bare moor, till the picturesque grounds of Logie Almond (Paton) present their artificial outlines, in the middle of wild mountain scenery. The road to Amulree strikes to the left up *the small glen*. Another branch leads down Glen Almond, passing Logie Almond, Gorthie, (Mercer,) and soon reaches the inn of Cairnies, where good accommodation may be had, and whence the imposing buildings of Trinity College may be conveniently visited.

The pass into the Highlands possesses several rather remarkably bold and rugged features, and is worthy of a passing visit. It is flanked on one side by hollow acclivities, passing into huge impending rocks, and on the other by lofty cliffs quite perpendicular—is about two miles in length, and in some places so narrow, as barely to afford room for the bed of the river. In the bottom of the pass, towards its upper end, is a large, nearly cubical, stone, which tradition says formerly covered the tomb of Ossian, and which was displaced in 1746, during the formation of the road, when a small chamber was found below it, containing bones.

"—— Ossian, last of all his race.
Lies buried in this lonely place."

The highly-elevated summit of the opening communicating between Straths Earn and Tay (where the inn of Curriemucklach and the public-houses, with the church and manse of Amulree—situated on the Braan, which descends to Dunkeld—are found) is a dreary waste, encompassed with low heathy hills. The distance to Dunkeld is ten; to Tay-Bridge, at Aberfeldy, twelve miles.

TO LOCHEARNHEAD.

8. Between Crieff and Comrie Strathearn gradually narrows, and on the way we meet many country-seats. The lower part of the valley is rich in corn-fields, which are lined off and

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intersected by fine old trees, and flanked by hanging woods, while the northern boundary partakes much of a mountainous character. Ochtertyre, (Sir W. Keith Murray,) about two miles from Crieff, and Lawers House, (Mrs. Williamson,) further on, are surrounded by noble woods. Between them, Strowan (Graham Stirling) and Clathie (Colquhoun). Ochtertyre has acquired a deserved celebrity for the romantic beauty of its situation. It occupies an elevated terrace on the slope of a long wooded hill, skirted at the base by a sheet of water of considerable extent, variegated with wood-clad islets. The course of the neighbouring stream—the Turret—exhibits a variety of much-admired scenery, rendered classical by the pen of Burns, who also, while at Ochtertyre, wrote the blythesome song of "Blythe blythe and merry was she," on the "Flower of Strathmore," Miss Euphemia Murray of Lintrose. Loch Turret—a fine loch about seven miles distant from Crieff, overhung by a bold crag, and embellished by a castellated lodge—lies embosomed among the hills forming the frontier range of the Grampians. On the way, the tourist should visit the Falls of the Borvick, and those of the Turret in returning. The parks of Lawers boast, perhaps, the largest pine trees to be seen in any part of Scotland.

9. Comrie is a populous village, situated on the north bank of the Earn. It possesses a neat church and spire. Cotton-weaving for the Glasgow manufacturers is the chief occupation of the inhabitants. Half a mile south of the village, on the level plain of Dealginross, are the remains of another Roman camp, calculated to have been of a size sufficient to accommodate 8000 foot and 3000 horse. It is by commentators supposed to have been that of Agricola's 19th legion, who were surprised and defeated by the Caledonians, under Galgacus, at the foot of the Grampians; though the tide of victory was turned by the attack on the Caledonians in the rear, by the forces from the camp at Ardoch, already described. About a mile and a half behind the village, a well-proportioned monument, about seventy-two feet in height, has been erected to the memory of the late Lord Melville, overhanging a turbulent little stream called the "Humble Bumble." Near the monument is the "Devil's Caldron," where the rivulet, at the further extremity of a long, deep, and narrow chasm, is precipitated in a fall of some height. As it escapes from its confinement, it tumbles over a second

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lower perpendicular descent, and then, rushing down in a slanting curve, it leaps headlong into a wide deep pool, half over-arched by two moss-covered rocks, which, falling from above, have suddenly stopped, perching themselves on the very verge of the gulf, and overhanging, on opposite sides, the darkened water. From the monument the view is extensive, varied, and interesting.

The neighbourhood of Comrie is remarkable for the frequent occurrence of smart shocks of earthquakes, by which solid bodies have been made to vibrate, and lighter ones overturned. The most severe shock which has occurred in the memory of the oldest inhabitants, was that which occurred on 23d October 1839. They generally happen in the wane of the moon, and are immediately preceded by a great stillness of the atmosphere.*

10. Between the village of Comrie and Loch Earn (five miles and a half distant), we pass Aberuchil Castle, Dalchonzie, and the mansion of Dunira (Sir David Dundas, Bart.), with its picturesque grounds and many pleasure walks. A little way east of St. Fillan's, the strath becomes for a short space very narrow, and the mountains seem to close in upon the traveller.

The pedestrian or horseman ought to cross to the south bank of the river at the Bridge of Ross, for a couple of miles. He will thus pass close to Aberuchil Castle (Col. Drummond), a high square structure, built in 1602, with a more modern addition. It has witnessed many sanguinary scenes between the Campbells and MacGregors. Avenues of lime, horse-chesnut, and other trees of great growth, adorn the grounds. Dalchonzie is a name given to a sporting retreat, consisting of a row of neat white-washed houses on the south bank of the river. Dunira is the country residence to which the celebrated Lord Melville retired from public life. It is a large square building, standing on a spacious level lawn (north side), encompassed by lofty and wooded mountains. In the house is to be seen a curious and costly jewel casket of Hyder Ali.

11. The village of St. Fillan's, at the east end of Loch Earn, is one of the neatest in the Highlands. It consists of about fifty houses, of one story each, but almost all of which are slated, and extending from the inn at the end of the lake, partly along the river and partly along the lake side. Most of the houses

* Those who may be desirous of making themselves acquainted with these phenomena are referred to the Edinburgh Philosophical Journal, 1841-42.

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used to be ornamented in front with ivy, honeysuckle, and other creepers, and each house has a narrow stripe of ground enclosed, on either side of the door, decorated with laurel and flowering shrubs. But we regret to find that the inhabitants are not careful to retain their reputation for the tidiness and taste which used to distinguish their dwellings. At the *west end* there are some very neat houses, with gardens in front. St. Fillan, who had been prior of Pittenweem, was Robert Bruce's favourite saint. One of his arms was borne in a shrine by the Abbot of Inchaffray, at the battle of Bannockburn. This arm is now in North America, in the possession of a man named Dewar. His well here, as well as in Strath Fillan, was, in the memory of the present generation, deemed efficacious for the cure of many disorders.

An islet, at the foot of Loch Earn, was at one time the retreat of a bandit family or sept of the name of Neish. On one occasion they ventured to plunder some of the clan Mac Nab, who lived at the west end of Loch Tay, while on their way from a foray in the low country. The chieftain despatched across the hill a party carrying a boat with them, and commanded by his son, a doughty personage, known by the appellative of *smooth John Mac Nab*, who surprised the marauders by night, put them all to the sword, and exterminated almost the whole sept of the Neishes, and carried away in triumph the head of the old father of the caterans. Hence the Mac Nab's motto, "Dread nought," with their crest, a man's head, are said to have been assumed in commemoration of this event.

12. Loch Earn is only between six and seven miles in length. The hills on the north are pretty lofty, but without marked inclinations. M'Culloch, who is a great authority, gives Loch Earn unqualified praise. He regards its style as that of a lake of much larger dimensions and yet complete in itself, and not to be regarded as a reduced copy. It has not impressed us so forcibly, yet there is considerable truth in his eulogium. Good views are obtained from the extremities. As on Loch Tay, the northern hills are of more decided character than the opposing ones.

Should the traveller incline to shape his route eastward by Loch Earn side, the southern road is to be preferred, as it affords a fine view of the scenery stretching to the north. From within a mile and a half of Lochearnhead, it will be found

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to pass through continuous woods of oak, larch, ash, and birch, with oak copse, and brushwood beneath. The finest landscapes occur about midway, a little to the east of the house of Ardvorlich (—— Stewart), where trees of various sizes overhang the water, and short wood-fringed promontories projecting into the lake, with gracefully sweeping arms of little semicircular bays, bordered with trees, afford a pleasing foreground and a sufficiency of ornament, while of the water and opposite hills only limited sections are necessarily embraced by the eye. Ben Voirlich rears its lofty head behind Ardvorlich ; and the still celebrated Deer Forest of Glenartney spreads around its eastern base.* Rather more than a mile and a half from the inn of Lochearnhead, we come to the Castle and Falls of Edinample. The former, near the loch and burn side, is a high square building, with a round tower bulging out from each of two opposite corners. It belongs to the Earl of Breadalbane, and is kept in a habitable state of repair, and is now the residence of —— Campbell, Esq. The falls are immediately below the road, and are approached on the east side of the rivulet. Pouring over a broad rugged rock, in two perpendicular streams, on each side of a narrow interposing fragment, the waters unite about midway, and, slanting forward, complete the descent by a second vertical leap ; the whole height apparently being about sixty feet. On the opposite side of the pool, below the fall, the bank rises in abrupt rocks, surmounted by a wooded slope, from the edge of which slender ash trees project. The other bank ascends in a receding tree-clad acclivity. Airy birches crown the high broad cliffs above the fall, and behind them are seen the sombre walls of an old burial vault. Opposite Ardvorlich, on the north side, is a valuable lime quarry, which has tended greatly to the agricultural improvement of the district.

13. The Loch Tay road branches off from the main one, between Stirling and Fort-William, at a point about six miles distant from Lochearnhead, and rather more than two from the village of Killin, at the west end of Loch Tay. This lake is fifteen miles in length by one of general breadth. On the north side it is encompassed by a chain of bulky mountains, rising towards the west and centre, into bare and lofty, but gracefully outlined heads, of which Ben Lawers, the most elevated of the

* For an account of the well-known incident founded on in the Legend of Montrose, and the subject of Clan Alpin's vow—a spirited piece of poetry by Alexander Boswell, see p. 87.

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Perthshire hills, towers pre-eminent.* The opposite heights differ in outline, being of a soft and regular form ; and on both sides the mountain ranges are well clothed with heath and pasture, but little broken with naked rock. At the head of Loch Tay, two glens, Dochart and Lochy, separated by a broad range of hills, unite. From the termination of the intervening barrier, a cultivated plain, about a mile square, extends to the extremity of the lake. The line of hill ground, intermediate between the two valleys, descends in a long waving ridge, whose sides are clothed more than half-way down with a dense larch wood. Between the hills which border on Loch Tay to the south, and the western portion of the lake, a lower tier ascends in successive eminences, profusely chequered with oak, birch, pine, larch, and beech. Upon the north the plain is immediately succeeded by broken ground, wooded as the opposite hills. The river Lochy, from this side, sweeps across the level at the foot of the mid range, and proceeds to join the Dochart, in a still, all but motionless stream.

Killin, the burying place of Fingal, is much admired for its numerous landscapes. The village, a long line of stone and lime huts, thatched with heath, extends in opposite directions on both banks of the Dochart, before it is joined by the Lochy. The river at Killin rushes over a widened and shelving channel, and encircles two islands immediately above one another. From the upper end of the lower, three small bridges cross the stream. This island is some two hundred yards long, and is surrounded by a grove of tall magnificent pines, from six to eight feet thick ; the upper islet is also crowned with similar pines. These objects, with the houses and mills of the village, afford a multiplicity of foregrounds to the noble views of the huge sides and lofty twin summits of Ben Lawers and the contiguous mountains, and, looking to the westward, of Ben More's sharper peaks.

14. On the north side of the plain above alluded to, rather more than a mile and a half from the village, stand the ruins of Finlarig Castle, (an ancient seat of the Breadalbane family,) in an undulating park, surrounded by gigantic sycamore and other trees of remarkable growth. The castle, a narrow, three-storeyed building, with a square tower at one corner, is entirely overgrown or faced with ivy ; and though the walls have

* This mountain is well known as an excellent botanical habitat. Its height is 4015 feet.

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mainly fallen, and the building be small, it forms a picturesque ruin. Immediately adjoining is the family vault.

On the occasion of a marriage festival at Finlarig, in years gone by, when occupied by the heir-apparent, intelligence was given to the company, which comprised the principal youth of the clan, that a party of the Macdonalds of Keppoch, who had just passed with a drove of *lifted* cattle, had refused to pay the accustomed *road collop*. Flushed with revelry, the guests indignantly sallied out and attacked the Macdonalds on the adjoining hill of Stronoclachan; but, from their irregular impetuosity, they were repulsed with loss. Tidings of the affray were conveyed to Taymouth; and, a reinforcement arriving, the victors were overtaken in Glenorchy, and routed, and their leader slain.

Three miles from the inn, on the Lochy, are a series of waterfalls, well worthy of a visit. Glen Lochy throughout the space below them is a wide open valley, divided into large cultivated fields; fine woods of oak, birch, larch, and beech extend above, and some large plane and ash trees overhang the road. The falls are six in number, arranged into two groups, separated by a deep clear pool, and they are flanked by oak-surmounted rocks. They vary from four to sixteen feet in height; and, as the whole are seen at once, form a very pleasing series of cascades.

15. A road branches off on either side of Loch Tay. The southern keeps high on the face of the hills, touching the edge of the water but twice, till within a mile and a half of Kenmore: this is the preferable route, on account of the superior characters of the opposite mountain range, and the occurrence near Kenmore of the falls of Acharn. A good deal of cultivation is seen on either side, and a considerable number of hamlets, particularly on the north. The wood is chiefly confined to the extremities of the lake but its obtuse promontories are lined with drooping ash trees. In the rich foliage on the south, adjoining Killin, stands embosomed a residence in which the Marquis of Breadalbane resided when Lord Glenorchy. The eastern section of Loch Tay is bounded on the north by Drummond Hill (distinct and separated from the chain of Ben Lawers, by which the rest of that side is bordered), which reaches for three miles along the loch, and to a like extent down the river Tay; its steep southern acclivity clothed through-

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out with a dense magnificent forest of pine, larch, and hard wood.

Two miles from Kenmore, on the south side of Loch Tay, are the Falls of Acharn, half a mile off the road. The path which leads to them strikes off on the west side of a small bridge, where there is a mill and some slated houses, and ascends right up the hill face. A gate on the bordering dyke leads to the edge of a high rock ; and an artificial dark passage conducts into a neat hermitage, commanding an excellent view of the fall. The burn, precipitating its waters over the side of a deep and wooded dell, first performs a perpendicular descent of fully fifty feet, separating towards the bottom into two vertical streams, which are caught by a small basin ; whence the water escapes by successive inclined leaps, the whole forming a cascade apparently about eighty or ninety feet high.

16. At the east end of Loch Tay the traveller reaches the village of Kenmore, and the much-admired environs of Taymouth Castle. The valley is here of moderate breadth. As already noticed, the eastern portion of Loch Tay, and the river issuing from it for the first few miles of its course, are bounded on the north side by a long wooded eminence called Drummond Hill. The corresponding hills on the south side, for the first two miles, rise in a moderate acclivity, richly wooded with oak, birch, and larch. Above this broad belt of wood, a gentle arable slope supervenes, rounding off at top in a prolonged, nearly level, summit, partly covered with larch trees. Further east, the continuation of this the southern range inclines from the wooded bank of the river, in a lengthened slope, laid out into extensive parks, divided by straight rows and belts of wood, and the surface of the ground above is chequered over with small formal clumps of larch. The river issuing from the north end of the lake keeps the same side of the valley for about two miles ; when it makes a sudden sweep to the base of the opposite hills. The space thus enclosed for two miles on the south side of the river is, for a third of its length, that next the lake, broken into gentle undulations ; and the remaining portion presents a triple series of level terraces, gradually lowering from the west. On the most easterly terrace stands Taymouth Castle, the seat of Lord Breadalbane. The village of Kenmore, at the end of Loch Tay, consists of an inn, and about a score of small houses (a few of them bedecked in front with

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ivy, honeysuckle, virgin's bower, and sweet-briar), occupying in a wide double row the slope of a small peninsula, formed between the river and a creek, or prolongation of the lake, and surmounted by a church, with a neat, square, white-washed spire.

At a distance of three miles from the lake, the Tay is joined by the river Lyon, which has its source in the district of Fortingal, to the north of Drummond Hill. Its mouth forms the limit of the pleasure-grounds of Taymouth, which encompass a circuit of thirteen miles.

Along the north bank of the Tay there extends a continuous row of stately beech trees, two miles in length, over-shadowing a terraced walk of shaven turf, sixteen yards wide, extending between it and the river. For a mile from Kenmore, on the opposite side, a corresponding row of more aged beech, screen with their umbrageous foliage a similar promenade. Many fine sycamores occur at intervals by the edge of the water, and behind the castle the winding stream is skirted by an avenue of very old lime trees; and the extremities are connected by a continuation of the same in a straight line, the whole forming a continued Gothic arch for the space of a mile. These magnificent trees, the growth of centuries, are of unusual height; and their lower branches, spreading far out, form sort of side-aisles to the fine central arched way. The rest of the lower surface of the valley is sprinkled with aged beech trees, one of which is twenty-two feet in circumference. Taymouth Castle looks to the south; and at the base of the wooded hills in front are some gigantic and picturesque horse-chesnut and ash trees, as well as several uncommonly straight and beautiful larches, fourteen feet in girth, and a hundred and thirty feet high. A great proportion of the very varied trees have attained large dimensions. We may further particularize an ash behind the inn at Kenmore—a beech at the saw-mill—and a lime tree nearly in front of the castle.

This castle is a very large ashen-coloured quadrangular pile of four storeys, with round corner-towers, wings two storeys high at opposite corners, and one of them a rather incongruous remnant of the old castle, and terminating in an airy central pavilion, 150 feet in height. A light stone balcony encircles the lower storey, which is crenulated, as is also the roof. Some ancient armour from the time of Henry II. to Cromwell's, may be

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seen in the entrance-hall, and the *coup d'œil* of the pavilioned staircase is striking. Some of the rooms, as the baron's hall, dining, drawing, and Chinese rooms, are worthy of notice, and possess several valuable specimens by the old masters; and on the occasion of her Majesty's visit, a large outlay was made in the way of permanent decoration, and many costly articles were added to the furnishings.

The disposal of the pleasure-grounds about Taymouth Castle has been censured as much too formal and constrained; and there is some room for the remark: but they possess great beauty, and, it must be allowed, no small degree of grandeur, especially as conjoined with the bold and commanding features of the adjoining alpine scenery. The view from the vista-fort, in the face of the hill, directly fronting the castle, is reckoned one of the finest in Scotland. In the centre of the landscape a portion of the lake widens towards the spectator. On the left, two long hill slopes, partly wooded, rise from the water, one above another; to the right, Drummond Hill sends down its wooded sides, and behind it rises the gigantic bulk of Ben Lawers, stretching away, in a prolonged oblique direction, to the remote distance, Ben More also shooting up from the extremity of the range his conical summit. At the near end of the lake rise the houses and church of Kenmore, embosomed in trees; and to the north of them a handsome bridge of seven arches is seen spanning the Tay, "revolving sweet in infant pride," and beyond it, a little wooded island, in which Sybilla, queen of Alexander I. is interred. The immediate foreground is filled up by the termination of the tree-studded park. But a view, perhaps better adapted for the pencil, is that obtained from Lady's Mount, the first rise in the ground near Kenmore, where, with the same background, the near objects are more distinct, and the picture less complicated and extensive. The scenery is distinguished by the very long and remarkably gentle slopes around the extremity of the lake—the rounded shoulders and elongated outlines of the hills—and the encircling zone of cultivated ground, variegated with trees.

A fanciful dairy, on a wooded eminence above the river, midway between the castle and the village, is not unworthy of a visit, partly on account of the commanding view it affords of the park and lake—the latter presented through a vista of foliage; and perhaps preferable to either of those already indi-

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cated. The dairy is a square or cross-shaped structure of two storeys, of protruding white quartz stones, with projecting roofs of slated and rustic work, and encircled by rustic pillars, and a verandah covered with flowering creepers, and a parterre of flowers—the porticoed entrance-floors paved with marble, and the milk rooms and lobby flagged with a fine freestone inlaid with black marble. The walls of this ornamental little dairy are faced with polished yellow Dutch tiles, and the milk dishes are of brown china.

The grounds of Taymouth are remarkable for the number of zoological curiosities congregated within their ample bounds —several varieties of sheep, all our native deer, and specimens of the emu, bison, buffalo, the white Caledonian cattle, and the once indigenous splendid capercailzie.

The brilliant effect may readily be conceived of the illumination, when her Majesty was feted here in a style of splendour which could hardly have been surpassed; the whole woodland one blaze of variegated light—the wire fence of the deer park festooned into a girdle of fire—the vista-fort illuminated by 40,000 lamps—the mountain tops kindled up into so many lustrous beacons, and a magnificent display of fireworks adding gorgeous coruscations to the fairy scene, amidst which a vast assemblage wandered about, deeply impressed and strangely excited by the unwonted presence of royalty, and the rare demonstrations of costly hospitality on the part of the noble host.

Lord Breadalbane's estates are very numerously peopled by small tenants, who hold their possessions at will, without leases.

17. On the north side of Drummond Hill lies an open and partially-wooded valley, called Fortingal, extending for about seven miles from Loch Tay side to Strath Tay, through which the river Lyon pursues its course to the Tay. This river flows into Fortingal from Glen Lyon, on the north side of Ben Lawers, and the connected hills which border on Loch Tay. About three miles from the lake, and six from Kenmore, and on the north side of the river, is the Kirkton of Fortingal—a few slated houses and thatched huts around the church. The churchyard is remarkable for the remains of an enormous yew-tree, which furnished many a goodly bow when that weapon formed a part of a Scotsman's armoury. This is a very singular tree: it has been calculated by eminent physiologists to be 2500 years old. About a century ago, the trunk was single, and measured fifty-

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six feet: now it presents the appearance of two stems, about twelve feet high; of these the largest, which is quite hollow, is twenty feet in girth. Though so much decayed in the core, it is completely sprouted over with young branches. To the west of the Kirkton the Lyon is crossed by a bridge; at Comrie, three miles in the opposite direction, a boat supplies the place of another, now in ruins. It may be almost needless to observe, that the pedestrian can reach Fortingal by crossing Drummond Hill immediately above Kenmore. In the space between Kirkton and the boat of Comrie, the Lyon presents some fine studies of river scenery. A mile below the Kirkton stands the house of Garth, surrounded by fine avenues of trees; and about the same distance onwards the road crosses the Keltnie burn, a little beyond which is the inn of Cushiville. The river is throughout lined with spreading oaks. Comrie's old castle, consisting of the shell of a small oblong building, of three storeys, with a square addition projecting at right angles at one end, next appears, surrounded by fine sycamores. The Lyon forms a junction with the Tay, about three quarters of a mile below its walls.

18. Glen Lyon is connected with Fortingal about a mile above the Kirkton, by the pass of Chesthill, which is well worthy of being explored. This section, which is much inflected, is bordered on the south by hills rising in green steep acclivities, with rocky spaces interspersed. The opposing mountains are bold, lofty, and lumpish, and swell into massive rocky and heathy summits. At the commencement of the pass, their bases bulge out, forming to the shelving river a steep bank covered with fine beeches. Towards the further end they send down, across the glen, to the river and deep indented hollow of the opposite range, a series of broad rocky hills These are covered to the water's edge with very large beech, elm, oak, ash, spruce, birch, and sycamore trees. Beyond this rich space Glen Lyon stretches away for a distance of nearly thirty-five miles towards Tyndrum. It is a remarkably fine pastoral valley—very narrow, seldom above a furlong in width, and at times barely admitting the passage of the river; and it is hemmed in by hills of considerable height, much furrowed with water-courses, forming, in rainy weather, so many continuous cataracts, several hundred feet in height. Meggerney Castle was built in 1579, and is approached through an avenue of a

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mile long, between rows of magnificent beeches and limes, winding along the banks of the river Lyon, and screening the castle till it bursts upon the sight at the extreme end of a fine lawn. "Opposite the castle is an island, which, when seen from the east, has the appearance of a heart, lines of tall beeches fringing it on either side, and dipping their branches into the silent stream below. Beyond is a picturesque wood of weeping birch, beech, elm, and lime trees, and the landscape formed by the mellow and varied tints of their foliages surpasses the most finished mosaic, just as much as nature usually transcends art." There are several remains of circular forts of Fingalian masonry without cement, some of them of 60 feet inside diameter, and the walls generally eight feet thick, though it is conjectured that they had not probably exceeded twelve feet in height; but they seem to have had several compartments, extending into the inner area. A little below one of these is Clach Chonabhachan, in the braes of Glen Lyon, a perpendicular slab four feet high, with a rectangular slab projecting from within twelve inches of its apex. "The virtue which this stone possessed was peculiar. Married ladies in an 'interesting situation' were carried to it by their husbands. If their fair proportions were embraced by the slab, they were assured of a favourable confinement; if otherwise, they must prepare for a fatal one. An unfortunate female subjected to the test proved a world too wide for the shrunk aperture, and her gudeman, in digging away the earth to widen the trench, destroyed the virtue, and killed his wife." At the west end of Fortingal, and to the north of the river, there was a Roman camp, of which the Prætorium is still entire. Hard by is a large tumulus, which possibly could a tale unfold.

19. Near the inn of Cushiville a road ascends along the banks of the Keltnie Burn, crossing the hills intermediate between Straths Tay and Tummel. At Tummel Bridge, nine miles from Cushiville, the road is continued onwards to Dalnacardoch (ten miles distant), where it joins that from Perth to Inverness. In journeying northward from Cushiville the road ascends along the edge of a deep and wooded dell, bordered by sloping cultivated ground, for about two miles, and crosses the hill to Tummel Bridge, through a wide elevated pass between heathy hills. About a mile and a half from the low fields, the ruins of a high square keep called Garth Castle, on the banks

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of the Keltnie, serve as a good foreground to a variety of interesting landscapes. It stands on a narrow, rocky promontory, between two rivulets, which, approaching in deep perpendicular channels, at nearly right angles to one another, have almost met at the narrowed neck of this promontory ; but the upper one, deflecting a little aside, leaves an almost inaccessible projection for the site of the stronghold. It forms a prominent object in the views which are obtained, either looking up the confined channel of the burn, or from the rising ground above, whence we look down upon a long shelving valley, ascending in easy irregular slopes from the deep imbedded burn, which is over-canopied by slanting trees.

At the top of the ascent, about half-way from Cushiville to Tummel-Bridge, a good country-road on the left hand conducts to Kinloch Rannoch, thirteen miles distant from Cushiville. Leading along the hill-face, to the base of the upper acclivity of Schehallion, it descends into Strath Tummel, about three miles to the east of Kinloch Rannoch. Loch Rannoch (eleven or twelve miles long, and better than a mile of average breadth) is a straight sheet of water, bordered on the north by long low eminences of gentle slope, and regular unbroken outline. The hills on the south are higher and steeper: they stand apart from one another, and in the centre are removed from the water's edge ; and the breadth between the summits on the opposite sides of the loch is not short of twenty miles. One continued forest of natural birch and fir, called "the Black Wood of Rannoch," mantles the south side, from the margin of the water half-way up the mountains, and a tolerably good road encircles the lake. The waters of Loch Rannoch abound in trout of a very unusual size, being sometimes caught of thirty pounds weight. From the head of Loch Rannoch Loch Erochd stretches for sixteen miles towards Dalwhinnie—a dreary sheet of water, about a mile of general width. The village of Kinloch Rannoch, at the east end of the loch, consists of half a-dozen huts, and an inn on the south side; and about a score more huts and another inn, a church and a manse, on the opposite side of the river Tummel, over which a bridge has been thrown.

For three miles below Kinloch Rannoch, the surface of the valley is quite flat, and upwards of a mile wide, consisting of a mixture of meadow and cultivated land. The advancing side-

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ridges of Schehallion, and a broad terrace or eminence on the north, then fill up the valley, leaving, for about two miles, room only for the passage of the river, the banks of which are wooded with birch, larch, and fir. Mount House (Robertson of Struan, chief of the Clan Donachie) occupies the upper end of this obstructing terrace; and above it, on the sides of the strath, are the houses of Milltown, (M'Donell); Crossmount, (Stuart); Dalchosnie, (Macdonald); and Inverchallan, (Stuart). Afterwards, the glen again becomes level, and continues widening till we reach Loch Tummel, ten miles distant from Loch Rannoch. Tummel Bridge Inn, a comfortable house, where the road from Crieff to Dalnacardoch crosses, is seven miles from the latter lake. Loch Tummel is three miles long, and at the west end about two-thirds of a mile in width, contracting towards the opposite extremity. Several obtuse little promontories, sweetly fringed with ash, project into the water. The hills along the upper portion of the strath are of gentle inclination and moderate height; those on the north preserve nearly an unbroken level outline. The southerly ones exhibit low detached summits, but rising from a common continuous chain. In the slight depressions of the hill-face, a good deal of land has been brought into cultivation, and the greater part of the north side of Loch Tummel is arable. Birch is scattered here and there, but heath and grey stones occupy by far the largest portion of the ground. As it approaches Loch Tummel, the tortuous river is skirted with ash trees. Near its mouth the house of Fosse (Stuart) stands on the south side of the valley. The space of four miles from Loch Tummel to the Garry is a very deep, confined pass, while the north side ascends very steeply from the water, and to an imposing height, swelling out above into a continued succession of rounded cliffs, with intermediate receding acclivities, the whole clothed with birch, but mingled with some fir and larch trees. The opposite side is of much the same, though less-strongly marked characters. On the face of the north side stands the house of Bonskeid, (Stuart). A few hundred yards from where it joins the Garry, the river Tummel forms a small water-fall deserving of a passing visit. It is divided into two streams by a small rock, on each side of which it pours for a few feet perpendicularly. Rushing furiously forward, they reunite, and, in contracted volume, dash obliquely over the remaining descent, the whole height not

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exceeding twenty feet. At the east end of Loch Tummel, the pedestrian should cross to the south side of the pass, by which means the scenery will be viewed to rather more advantage than from the other side, and he can afterwards be ferried over to the Dunkeld and Blair road at Portnacraig, opposite Pitlochry, three miles below the fall, or two miles farther down the river, at Moulinearn. The North Road crosses the Garry, at the bridge of Garry, near the lower end of the Pass of Killiecrankie.

20. Returning now to the Tay. Below the junction of the Tay and Lyon the valley of Tay becomes of considerable width, being at Aberfeldy (six miles from Kenmore, and eight from Kirkton of Fortingal) about a mile and a half broad. It winds in long gentle sweeps, and is for several miles quite flat and cultivated. Between five and six miles from Kenmore, on the north side, stands Castle Menzies, the seat of Sir Robert Menzies, at the foot of a lofty range of rocky hills, rising in successive tiers of perpendicular precipices, having noble oak and beech trees rooted in their ledges, and the less abrupt acclivities covered over with hard wood. The castle was erected in the sixteenth century. Like many buildings of that age, it presents a high roof, small windows and turrets, and consists of an oblong building, to the two opposite corners of which is added a tall square wing, at right angles, one advancing in front, the other retiring backwards. It is surrounded by a park, filled with aged trees, rivalling in dimensions those of Taymouth. At the end of the park is the respectable inn of Weem.

Opposite Aberfeldy the river is crossed by one of General Wade's bridges. A tapering obelisk over each corner of the central arch, about twelve feet above the high solid parapet, produces a singular but picturesque effect.

21. Aberfeldy is a village of considerable size, chiefly of one long street, with another leading off about the centre, and a small square at their junction; the houses of one and two storeys, and slated, but cold and comfortless looking, from the small and unlintelled windows; but the stream which passes through it exhibits the most beautiful series of waterfalls, perhaps, in Scotland. The lowest of the falls of Moness is a mile from the village; the upper—for there are three—half a mile beyond it. The dell in which these falls occur is apparently from 200 to 300 feet deep, and exceedingly confined, so much so that the trees, with which it is filled, in some places

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almost meet from the opposite sides. The wood forms a perfect thicket, and the walk is completely shaded from the sun. The lowest falls consist chiefly of a series of cascades, formed by a small tributary rivulet pouring down the east side of the dell, and seemingly altogether about eighty feet of perpendicular height. These join the main burn at the base of a little fall, which forms a conspicuous object in the sweet view obtained from the channel of the stream. From the end of a clear pool, where the motion of the water is indicated only by the bells of foam gliding slowly down, the spectator sees, at the further extremity of a low narrow chasm of black moistened rock, the small waterfall, at such a distance that its noise reaches the ear in a soft lulling murmur. On either hand rise high sloping banks, adorned with trees. A sweep of one side of the dell terminates the opening with a steep face of wood. From the edge of the fall shoots up a long slender spruce, succeeded by straight elms, and leafy beech trees. Young drooping ash trees, from the opposite bank, dip their tapering branches in the pool; each little protruding rock is covered with moss, and curtained with pendent ferns. Through the trees the other streamlet is beheld descending in sidelong haste.

Let the visitor, however, hasten on to the next series, for they demand particular examination. They consist of a succession of falls, comprising a perpendicular height of not less than a hundred feet, and occupying in length a space of considerably more than the like number of yards. A prolonged sheet of descending water, alternately perpendicular and slanting, is before us. From the edge of this lengthened cataract rise abrupt rocky acclivities, covered with moss and ferns, whence shoot up tall slender ash and elms. These partially veil two lichen-clad mural cliffs, converging towards the uppermost of these falls, above which they rear two high vertical lines; on the top of these cliffs nod serried groves of pine and larch, while a row of airy birches wave on the slanting summit of the bank which closes in the rocky gap. The last and highest cascade is a perpendicular fall of about fifty feet, but possessing no peculiar interest. Here a rustic bridge conducts across the dell, and affords the traveller the opportunity of varying his route back to the inn.

22. From Aberfeldy the Tay maintains an easterly course for nine or ten miles, till it is joined at Logierait by the river Tummel. The hills bordering this portion of Strath Tay

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diminish to a comparatively low size. Irregular terraces occupy the bottom of the central portion of this section of the valley, which above and below this space is level and open. The hill sides rise in undulating slopes, all more or less cultivated, and frequently wooded to the top, especially on the north side, on which also a succession of substantial-looking residences present themselves, as Blackhill, Daltulich, Cloichfollich, Pittencree, and Bolechine, the seats of families chiefly of the name of Stewart. Three miles below Aberfeldy, Grandtully Castle (Sir William D. Stewart of Murthly), stands by the roadside surrounded by rows of stately elms. It is an old structure, but kept in a habitable condition. From each of two contiguous sides of a large oblong building a tall square narrow addition projects at right angles. An extinguisher turret surmounts the two free corners of the main building, and a sort of round tower or section of one, containing the staircase, bulges out behind, and projecting high above the castle, terminates in a pointed roof. One of the square wings is completely encompassed with ivy, and the whole of almost uniform outline. The great novelist states, that this building bears a close resemblance to the house of Tully Veolan, the picturesque abode of the old Baron of Bradwardine. Four miles from Grandtully is the inn of Skitewn, or Grandtully Arms; and half a mile on, the small inn of Balnaguard.

About eight miles above Dunkeld, at Logierait, the Tay is joined by and bends to the southerly course of the Garry and Tummel, and the conjoined stream may be crossed by a good chain-boat. A wide cultivated flat occupies, to within three miles of Dunkeld, the bottom of the valley, through which flow the combined waters of the Tay and Tummel. It is skirted by a terrace, on which various hard wood trees and oak coppices abound; while continuous and very extensive masses of larch stretch along the summits of the hills above, and below them cultivated fields slope gently down. Six and a half miles from Dunkeld we pass Kinnaird House (Duke of Athole's), and a mile and a half beyond Dalguise (—— Stewart).

Above Dunkeld, Craigiebarns, a massive rocky mountain advancing from the hills on the eastern side of the valley, almost blocks it up. This, with the opposite hill, Craigievenean, are clothed with a dense pine forest, through which occasional glimpses exhibit large masses of abrupt rock. Between them lie the rich woods which form the pride of Dunkeld.

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ROUTE SECOND.—BRANCH B.

FROM BLAIR ATHOLE TO GRANTOWN IN STRATHSPEY, BY GLEN TILT AND THE CASTLETOWN OF BRAEMAR.

Glen Tilt; Deer Forest, 1.—Pass between the Tilt and the Dee, 2.—Strath Dee; Linn of Dee; Mar Lodge; Falls of Corriemulzie and Quoich; Loch Avan and Sources of the Dee, footnote, 3.—Castletown of Braemar, 4.—The Earls of Mar; Farquharsons; The Children of the Trough, 5.—Braemar Castle; View from Invercauld Bridge, 6.—Forest Scenery; the Garrawault, 7.—Balmoral; Abergeldie; Ballater; Strath Dee to Aberdeen, footnote, 8.—Glencairn; Strath Don; Corgarff Castle, 9.—Tomantoul; Glen Avon, 10.

	Miles.
Blair Athole to Braemar	26
Rienloan	13
Corgarff	8½
Tomantoul	9
Grantown	14
	70½

Braemar to Ballater	14
Kincardine O'Neil	16
Banchory Ternan	8
Drum Inn	8
Aberdeen	10
	56

THE route here to be described, though anciently a common one between the opposite districts of Athole, Dee, and Badenoch, is now almost inaccessible, at least for the first day's journey, save to the pedestrian.

1. His course to the Dee and the Braes of Mar lies through Glen Tilt, as to which see page 233. The water of Tilt joins the Garry from the eastward, and issues from a deep confined glen which cuts through the mountains, where, at Athole House, they bend to the south and west. For a couple of miles above Athole House, and the inns of Blair and Bridge of Tilt, high and steep banks rise from the water's edge; and their sides and tops are covered with wood. Above this, a narrow stripe of flat ground occupies the bottom of the glen for seven or eight miles: the wood soon disappears, and the hills rise in steep acclivities, covered only with herbage and heath. They are unbroken, save where an occasional ravine

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sends down a tributary streamlet, and of almost uniform height, from 500 to 600 feet, except where Ben-y-Gloe on the south raises his more aspiring form.

The glen is nearly strait, and the inclination remarkably gentle. Two small hunting lodges of the Duke of Athole are passed, the one four, the other seven, miles from Blair; there is a good road as far as the second lodge; beyond it, a mere footpath conducts along the north side of the water.

As already observed, the right of way to Braemar is the subject of a depending process before the Supreme Court, the Duke of Athole obstructing the passage hitherto enjoyed by the public.

Glen Tilt, as these lodges indicate, is a great sporting rendezvous, and for the stalking of red deer, of which his Grace of Athole boasts, perhaps, the most extensive and best-stocked forest in the country. No less than a hundred thousand acres of the surrounding ground are appropriated for the use of these animals; and it is seldom the wayfarer wends his way through this sequestered valley without discerning several of them; and they are most frequently to be seen leisurely and majestically pacing along the edge of the impending cliffs.

In following the sport, parties are stationed at different parts of the glen, who command excellent opportunities of trying their skill in the use of the rifle, as the deer, driven by dogs, sweep rapidly past; the narrowness and steepness of the glen generally ensuring their being within range.

Four miles above the second lodge, the rivulet of Loghaine enters Glen Tilt from a glen on the right.

2. Keeping onwards along the north side of the main stream of the Tilt, a mile beyond its junction by the Loghaine, the traveller comes to the Tarff Water, which issuing from a confined defile on the left, is precipitated over two falls, the lowest about ten, the upper about twenty-five feet in height. Crossing the Tarff, the path continues along the now much diminished stream, for the former supplies the main body of the Tilt Water, and the glen is soon found to split into two narrow ascending gullies. A track will be seen ascending the southerly one. This leads to Faillaird, another hunting lodge of the Duke of Athole's. The pathway to the Castletown of Braemar continues along the north side of the other, leading along the face of a steep acclivity. Less than two additional miles brings

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us to the top of the pass, where we find an open hollow in the hills, with a flat mossy bottom, whence another burn descends towards the Dee in a direction directly contrary to that of the Tilt. After a run of two or three miles, it falls into the Dee at the bend of the river, nine miles above the Castletown. A foot-path will be found on the south side of the hollow and burn, and of the Dee, to the Linn of Dee, six miles above the Castletown, whence a good road leads along the south side of the river. If mounted, the traveller should keep the opposite side of the burn; he will thus fall in with a cart road, and, fording the Dee, will have the benefit of a good road for three miles before coming to the Linn, where he will recross by a bridge. It may be mentioned, that, after leaving the Duke's lodge, a sheiling or shepherd's hut, will be met in Glen Tilt, at the mouth of the Loghaine; another, upon the south side of the burn, falling into the Dee, rather more than a mile from that river, and a farm-house on the north side, farther down the burn.*

3. Strathdee, when first met with, has a pretty wide central space. Below the Linn of Dee it increases to rather more than half a mile in breadth. This is meadow-land, with a few arable patches; and in the portion between the linn and the Castletown large quantities of birch are spread over this central flat. The hills are of moderate height, and of rounded or flattened outline.

The great pine forest of the Dee has been cleared off above

* To the north, between Strath Dee and Strath Spey, are closely grouped several of the loftiest mountains in Britain: Ben Mac Dhui, Braeriach, Cairntoul, Cairngorm, Ben-na-main, Ben A'an, and others—ranging from 4000 to 4390 feet; and thus, in one instance, overtopping Ben Nevis' proud summit. In their recesses, the perfection of secluded alpine scenery is, as we have said, to be met with; but the wayfarer must needs proceed to the Castletown, to refresh his weary limbs, ere presuming to explore these remote solitudes; for they afford work enough for an entire day's toilsome walking. The hollows between the mountain masses are flanked by stupendous precipices, down which sheeted cataracts find their headlong way; but the opening glens possess much of sweet pastoral verdant beauty, chequered with the hoar features of aged and weather-beaten pines. Loch A'an or Avon, and the sources of the Dee, each may form a day's excursion. The best approach to the former, is along the course of Water of Lui, which joins the Dee a little below the Linn of Dee. When the water, at about four miles from the Linn, forks into two, the right branch through Glen Dearg is followed, and the corry at its extremity which forms the water shear, must be surmounted when the precipitous channel of the Alt-dhu-lochan, and a deviation to the left, conduct, at a distance of about twenty miles from Castletown, to the waters of the lake, which is about two miles in length, encircled by the topmost precipices of Ben Mac Dhui, Cairngorm, and Ben-na-main. The Dee has its rise on the west side of Ben Mac Dhui, between it and Braeriach. But we reserve our description of the upper portion of the strath, and its very peculiar scenery, to the next branch of this route, in which the passes through the Grampians are treated of.

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the linn. It thence, though only an imperfect semblance of its former self, clothes the sides of the northern hills for five miles down the river, and stretching up Glen Lui, and Glen Quoich; and is succeeded by the forest of Balloch Bowie. The trees are still generally large and stately, but the greater part of them are considered young and dwarfish in comparison with some of the veteran stems in the forest, which frequently measure thirteen and fourteen feet in girth six feet from the ground, and about sixty feet in height. The axe has long been busily at work; but we trust a respectable remnant will yet be preserved of this fine forest. There are still many magnificent specimens extant in Strathdee and the small adjoining glens. The wood on the hills on the south side of the valley, in this section, is nearly all birch.

The Linn of Dee is a spot about six miles above the Castletown, where the river has cut a long narrow passage, between thirty and forty feet deep, through opposing rocks, and forms four small falls, the central ones about ten and twelve feet, the others not above half that height. Below the falls, the water has scooped out a series of basins, where it sleeps, deep, dark, and, to appearance, motionless. When the water is low, some of the connecting channels are not above a yard wide; but it is subject to floods, which sometimes fill the chasm to the brim, and then the fury of the pent up torrent is tremendous, and at all times the painfully labouring progress of the river, which is here of considerable volume, is a remarkable spectacle. The dangerous and foolhardy feat of leaping across the linn has been frequently performed, and even from one of the banks, which is lower than the opposite. The chance of any living thing emerging, save in death, from the grim viewless chambers, where the dark waters are being impeded and churned, is obviously small indeed. Lord Byron, when a boy, made a narrow escape of being subjected to this ordeal, having tripped in the heather above, and been rescued only when all but over the ledge. There is a road on both sides, that on the north generally preferred.

Two miles below the linn, on the north side of the river, and in the bottom of the valley, is seen Mar Lodge, a commodious hunting-seat of the Earl of Fife's, the long low wings of which give it a length of front which makes it a very conspicuous object. It is rented, with the adjoining deer forests, by the Duke of Leeds. The strath is here straight for several miles, and pre-

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sents a peculiar appearance in its hanging pine forest on one side, and birch woods on the other, and in the wide level space between. Two fine waterfalls occur on the hills bounding the strath, Corriemulzie on the south, and the Linn of Quoich on the north. The former is seen as a long white and steep line on the face of the hill, about four miles from the Castletown, bordered by an emerald herbage, and half-hid by the foliage of the birch. Corriemulzie Cottage is a pretty sporting villa, occupied during the season by General Duff and his family. The Quoich, two miles below Mar Lodge, is a more turbulent stream, tumbling down a succession of rocky ledges, and exhibiting in its course various circular perforations which it has achieved in its schistose bed.

The distance from Blair Athole to Castletown of Braemar may be reckoned twenty-six miles, requiring (from the nature of the ground) eleven hours' moderate walking.

4. Castletown of Braemar consists of a group of neat cottages and slated houses, on the east side of the Cluny, a mountain stream, which is here crossed by the military road about half a mile from the junction of the streamlet with the Dee, and a collection of scattered huts upon the opposite or west side, which was at one time a great gathering-place for deer hunts. On either side there is a good inn. There are no less than three places of worship here, and the houses of the village are neat and respectable; and of the cottages generally on Deeside, it may be remarked, that they are distinguished by their snugness, and the tidy little plots of garden ground, and frequent garniture of roses, honeysuckle, and other ornamental creepers. On the east bank of the Cluny, the site is shewn of a castle which Malcolm Ceanmore is said to have had here, and Braemar was a favourite resort of many subsequent monarchs.

5. This great but secluded district was for centuries under the sway of the powerful Erskines, Earls of Mar, who forfeited their lands by the prominent part which John, the thirty-ninth Earl, took in the rebellion of 1715. It was an Earl of Mar who headed the forces who, in the beginning of the fifteenth century, successfully encountered Donald of the Isles in the very bloody battle of Harlaw, on Don side. Another old name in Strathdee is that of Farquharson, still a numerous clan there.

One of the most revolting incidents in clan history is connected with the Farquharsons, and so late as the reign of James

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VI. Farquharson of Inverey having slain a Gordon—Baron of Brackley—the Marquis of Huntly and the Laird of Grant, a kinsman also of the deceased, concocted a joint invasion of the country of the Farquharsons, the forces of the one advancing up, while those of the other descended Strathdee. A terrible massacre of the Farquharsons ensued. About a couple of hundred of orphaned children were carried off by Huntly. Some time thereafter the Laird of Grant, being dining with the Marquis, was brought by him to a balcony which overlooked the kitchen court. The offals of the servants' dinner were thrown into a large trough, and on a signal, a hatch, as of a kennel, was raised, and a troop of half famished little ones, with yells and screams, rushed forward, and ravenously devoured the accustomed meal, snarlingly contesting the morsels like so many hungry curs. The Laird of Grant was excessively shocked by the spectacle, but prudently suppressing his feelings, he, on learning that these were the unfortunates whom his own sword had aided to reduce to such degradation, contrived, on the ground that he ought to bear a share of the expense of their maintenance, to have them removed to Strathspey, where he had them distributed among his clan, and brought up in a creditable manner. Their descendants were, however, long distinguished as "the children of the trough."

6. The Castle of Braemar stands at the point of the eastern side of the glen through which the Cluny flows, on a slight elevation in the plain. It is a tall structure of four storeys and attics, and of the shape of two buildings united at right angles, with a turnpike staircase in the interior angle. It is surrounded, at a distance of fifteen feet, by a wall, forming a square, with an angle protruding from the centre of each side. A party of military are stationed here to aid in the suppression of smuggling. In a field below the castle the Earl of Mar raised the standard for James VIII. in 1715. The road, passing under the over-hanging cliffs of Craig Clunie, crosses the Dee three miles below the Castletown, and the north road leaves Strathdee six miles farther down. The view from the bridge of Invercauld, both up and down the river, is peculiarly imposing. Forests of fir clothe both sides and the circling terminal boundaries of this section of the valley, and with the fir, birch is mingled in large quantities, both in distinct masses and more intimate union. This latter tree also again disposes itself

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amidst the corn fields and pasture in the centre of the valley. Above the woods which occupy the gentle slopes of the spacious hollows at either extremity, and the heathy acclivities which succeed them, rise, in frowning majesty, amphitheatres of bare and lofty alps, among which, to the east, are the cold blue tops of Lochnagar. A mile below the castle, on the opposite side of the river, is the house of Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld.

7. The great pine forest stretches for several miles down the river from the bridge, but more especially on the south side, and the Dee retains its supremacy over the Don, at least in the articles of "fish and tree." On the north there is a considerable population, and a stripe of arable land, which occasionally rises well up the hill face. The strath now presents a series of open basins of varying dimensions, at times of considerable expanse, and connected by narrow gorges. The northern is the principal road, but the forest road, on the south side, is the more interesting as far as Ballater. The continuous pine woods are somewhat monotonous, but there is an impressive solemnity about them, and it is relieved by the intermixture of birch about the river's course. About a couple of miles below the bridge on the south side, the Garrawault exhibits another of those impetuous streams, broken into frequent falls and cataracts, which are so characteristic of the district. A rustic bridge and hermitage, to which there is access by a steep road, have been constructed at the principal fall—a long shelving descent of foaming water. Altogether the burn course has a peculiar wild beauty, and a charm of its own, in the middle of the sequestered forest. The forest on the south side is first broken by the cultivated ground about the Gelder water. Nearly opposite is the small village of Monaltrie, not far from which, between the road and the river, is the "Cairn-a-quheen," the gathering place of the Farquharsons.

8. Before quitting Strathdee we must glance at her Majesty's Highland residence, and its vicinity. Balmoral, a name now familiar to the whole world, stands on the haugh ground on the south bank of the Dee, in a bend of the river, about a mile and a half from the point where the north road leaves the Strath for Strathdon. The castle, which faces the south, is an irregular pile, constructed at different periods. It is overlooked at present by the road, but young trees and shrubberies are springing up, and the gardens and pleasure-grounds around it

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are laid out with considerable taste. Cairn Gowan, a wooded hill, rises immediately in front. A remarkably striking mountain panorama is commanded from the grounds, comprising several of the loftiest mountain summits. About a mile below the castle there is a slight chain bridge, which conducts to the parish church of Crathie, where the Royal Family join the rustic audience in worship without the slightest ostentation, and without constraint on the part of their fellow-worshippers. The birchen birks of Abergeldy succeed down the river, and a beautiful walk, and a favourite one of her Majesty's, leads through them on the south side to Abergeldy, where there is an extensive reach of level ground laid out in fine farms, and ornamented by the policies and magnificent birch woods of Abergeldy Castle—an imposing building, also on the south bank of the river. Considerable tracts of arable land stretch up along the course of the Geldy—another stream which helps to drain Lochnagar. From Abergeldy the road on the south crosses Craignaban, the pine woods continuing densely to clothe the hill sides. Another wide stretch of valley succeeds. Craig Youzie, an extensive fir-clad elevation, is crossed by the road, and the Dee at its base receives the waters of the Gairn from the north, and then plunges through a magnificent pass between Craig Youzie and the steep acclivities of Craigendarroch, covered over with birch and pine. We now reach Glenmuick, which brings down another considerable tributary; and crossing the Dee by a wooden bridge, we arrive at the considerable village of Ballater, fourteen miles from Castletown—a sweet spot, ensconced at the base of the high rocky frontlet of Craigendarroch. It is surrounded by numerous cheerful cottages, and is a favourite place of resort for the Aberdonians, for the benefits, in addition to the attractions of the scenery, of the celebrated Pananich Wells, two miles to the eastward. A coach runs between Ballater and Aberdeen.*

* The remainder of the course of the Dee to Aberdeen (42 miles) presents much pleasing scenery, and many objects of interest, which, however, we can barely enumerate, viz.—Within a forenoon's excursion of Ballater, Lochnagar, 3800 feet above the sea, known wherever the muse of Byron has cast its spell; the farm house of Ballatrich, where he some time lived; the burn of the Vat; ruins of Dee Castle, and Charleston of Aboyne, with its suspension bridge; Aboyne Castle, an irregular structure, the seat of the Marquis of Huntly; the village of Kincardine O'Neil, noted for its good inn; in its vicinity, to the north, Lumphanan, the place of Macbeth's death; the brig of Potarch, where the channel of the Dee is much contracted, and where an old road crosses leading to Cairn-o-mount and Brechin; Inchmarlo House (Davidson); the castellated mansion of Blackhall (Campbell); some miles to the north the battle-

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9. Ascending the side of Strath Dee, the north road crosses a broad bleak hill, and descends into Glengairn, which is a narrow stripe of arable and meadow ground, bordered by chains of heathy hills. At the bottom of the glen, we reach the first stage, Rienloan, thirteen miles from Castletown. Hence the road reascends, and six miles and a-half more, over barren hills, brings the traveller to the Don, along which we ascend for two miles to Corgarff. From about half-way between this latter place and Rienloan, the Grantown or north road becomes, for a space of eighteen or twenty miles, almost impassable for carriages. The river Don, where crossed by this line of road, is a small burn bordered by a narrow stripe of meadow and arable ground, and winding among sloping heath-clad hills.

On the face of the south side of the strath stands Corgarff Castle, a small oblong building of four storeys, with a wing at each end, and encircled by a wall similar to that round Braemar Castle. A small party of military is also stationed here. A more bleak and dreary place of banishment, we believe, is hardly to be met with in the Highlands. Opposite the castle, and beside a neat shooting-box, there is a tolerable thatched public-house.

10. Leaving Corgarff, the road for the first five miles ascends one heathy ravine, and then descends another, lined with snow-posts, when it reaches a small burn called the Conglass, upon the banks of which mines of manganese and iron are worked. Following the course of the burn for four miles, we reach Tomantoul, a small village, built on a spot of tabular ground overlooking the Avon. It consists of about 100 houses of, with three or four exceptions, one storey, partly slated, partly thatched with heather. They are arranged in a straight street, with a square in the centre, the common arrangement of villages in the surrounding districts. A government church and neat humble manse, with a handsome Roman Catholic chapel, and

field of Corrichie, fought under the eye of Queen Mary; the pleasing village of Banchory Ternan, with its numerous villas; Tilliwhill Castle; the curious-shaped hill of Clochnaben; Crathes Castle (Sir Robert Burnett), a fine old Flemish-looking building; Park House; the Kirk and House of Durris; the Castle of Drum, with its massive old tower; some miles to the north the curious fortified remains, called the Balmekyne of Echt, a series of gigantic concentric walls encircling the summit of a steep conical hill; the Roman camp of Norman dykes, Kingcaussie, and Culter Houses; the churches of Mary Culter and Peter Culter fronting each other; the Roman Catholic College of Blairs; the church and village of Banchory Devenick, and the series of suburban villas which herald the approach to the good city of Aberdeen. For a very detailed account of the Dee above Ballater, we would refer the reader to a most interesting series of articles by a practised hand in Tait's Magazine for November and December 1848, and January 1849.

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respectable court-house, adorn the place. Glen Avon is here a narrow winding glen, flanked by steep banks, partially covered with oak coppice, above which the undulating slopes exhibit at intervals cultivated spaces of considerable size. Crossing the glen, the road reascends, and then, descending into a small contiguous glen, proceeds up along the side of it, the view presenting, as it does from all the elevations after quitting Dee side, an expanse of heath-covered hills of easy inclination and smooth regular surface. Presently a long reach of Strathspey opens sidewise to the view at some distance, with its pine-filled flats and cultivated slopes. Turning, as we advance to the right, another section of it is presented, where the white houses of Grantown, and the high walls of Castle Grant, rise amid long tracts of ascending pine forest, birch woods, and corn fields.

It has long been in contemplation to put this road, from Braemar to Grantown, into a complete state of repair, and to extend it to Dunkeld, on one hand, and Elgin, on the other, (there being already a good road from Grantown to Forres,) so as to form a shorter communication between Morayshire and the south country than at present exists.

ROUTE SECOND.—BRANCH C.

ROUTES ACROSS THE GRAMPIANS TO BRAEMAR AND ATHOLE, WITH LOCH-AN-EILAN, CAIRNGORM, ETC.

Grandeur of the Grampian Mountains, 1.—Various Passes, 2.—Glenmore, 3.—Botany; Rock Crystals, 4.—Geological Features; Loch Avon, 5.—Loch-an-Eilan, 6.—Grand Assemblage of Mountains and Cataracts around the sources of the Dee, 7.—The Springs or Wells of Dee; the Garachary, 8.—Ben Mac Dhui, 9.—The Chest of Dee, 10.—Pass of Minikaig; Pass of Gaick; Catastrophe in 1799; Geology of the Grampians, 11.—Rare Plants, 12.—Cairngorm Stones, 13.

1. That portion of the great range of the Grampian mountains which lies intermediate between the confines of Strathspey and Badenoch, on the one hand, and Strath Dee and Glen Tilt, on the other—occupying a width of about twenty-five miles—comprehends at once the highest altitudes and the greatest mass of highly-elevated mountain-land, and the most numerous and closely-congregated groups of lofty mountain-summits in the British dominions, approached only, perhaps, by the great

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chains which overhang Loch Affrick and Loch Beneveian, Loch Lungard and Loch Monar—the sources of the Beauly—where, however, they are not so densely compacted together. Though exhibiting the greatest amount, in any given compass, of the more sublime features of alpine scenery, yet this district is little known, except from the report, and that only of late years, of a comparatively small number of adventurous tourists. The reason is, that these fastnesses cannot be explored, except by dint of a complete fagging day of resolute walking, there being no intermediate stage whatever between Aviemore and Castletown of Braemar, or between the former or Kingussie and Blair Athole.

2. There are four passes across this section of the Grampians, besides those through which the public roads proceed, which require some notice. The first is from Aviemore, by Glenmore, across the eastern shoulders of the Cairngorms, and by the south end of Glen Avon to Braemar; secondly, by a more westerly course through the skirts of the Rothiemurchus forest, and on the west side of Cairngorm to the sources of the Dee, between that mountain and Braeriach, and thence along the west side of Ben Mac Dhui, and the course of the Dee; the third from Loch Inch, or Inverishie, by Minikaig, into Glen Tilt and Athole; and the fourth proceeds from Glen Tromie, by the forest of Gaick, into Bruar and Athole.

None of these routes should be attempted by the pedestrian without a guide; and each of them will require, in the passage, the greater part of a long summer's day. The first two can only be undertaken, either from Castletown in Braemar or from Aviemore in Strathspey, at both of which places guides may be hired; and the two last routes, in like manner, must be begun either from Blair Athole, terminating the same day at Kingussie in Badenoch; or this order may be reversed. But it should be distinctly borne in mind, that, when once the low valleys at either end of these journeys are passed, not a single hut or place of shelter is to be found in the hills, and that none but persons in robust health, and accustomed to walking, should try these excursions. In tempestuous weather they should on no account be attempted by any one. The length of each exceeds thirty miles of hill and dale,* which is fully as toilsome as one-half additional distance on a made road; and as the

* Minikaig and Gaick are not so long, but sufficiently trying.

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visitor must start from one end, and sleep next night at the other, without the possibility of finding any place of refreshment, we would advise his carrying provisions with him, and loitering as shortly as possible by the way.

3. Pursuing the first route, we cross the Spey at Inverdruie, near Aviemore, and proceed eastward, through Glenmore, which, as Dr. Macculloch remarks, "without being picturesque, is a magnificent scene, from its open basin-like form, rising at once up the high and unbroken mountains which surround it, from its wide extent, and from its simple grandeur of character. Everywhere is seen rising young woods of various ages, promising, when centuries shall have passed away, to restore to the valley its former honours. But it is the wreck of the ancient forest which arrests all the attention, and which renders Glenmore a melancholy—more than a melancholy—a terrific spectacle. Trees of enormous height, which have escaped alike the axe and the tempest, are still standing, stripped by the winds even of their bark, and, like gigantic skeletons, throwing far and wide their white and bleached bones to the storms and rains of heaven; while others, broken by the violence of the gales, lift their split and fractured trunks in a thousand shapes of resistance and of destruction, or still display some knotted and tortuous branches, stretched out in sturdy and fantastic forms of defiance to the whirlwind and the winter. It is the naked skeleton bleaching in the winds, the gigantic bones of the forest still erect, the speaking records of former life, and of strength still unsubdued, vigorous even in death, which renders Glenmore one enormous charnel-house." The wood in this valley was sold to the York Buildings Company for £10,000; and it is said their profits exceeded £70,000.

4. Passing the region of the forests, the stranger finds himself about a third of the way up the Grampian slopes, which are thence only sparingly covered with heather, and whortle, and cranberries; and as he approaches the summit, even these disappear, and the naked undecomposed granite presents itself, the crevices of which are but occasionally tinged with the varied colours of small alpine lichens and mosses, more prevalent than which, however, the botanist will descry the little phænogamous beauties of *Statice Armeria* and *Silene acaulis*.

The ascent from the west end of Glenmore to the top of Cairngorm is easy, with little variety from protruding rocks, or

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watercourses. "One smooth and undulating surface of granite mountain, without the variety of bold precipice or deep ravine, follows another, so far and so wide, that, when other objects appear, they are beyond the reach and powers of the eye, and produce no effect."

To the botanist this mountain is almost a blank, as regards phænogamous plants; and, indeed, the productions on it and the neighbouring chain of mountains present a greater resemblance to the Flora of the Lapland Alps, than those of any other elevations in Britain. *Lichen nivalis* is, doubtless, the most striking plant on Cairngorm, but it has not been met with in fructification; while some other species of the same genus (*Cetraria*), found nowhere else in fruit, often present themselves here in that state. *Lycopodium annotinum* and *Azalea procumbens* are exceedingly abundant, and *Luzula armata*, associated with *L. spicata*, are almost the only phænogamous plants to be met with on the bare summit.*

5. The central nucleus of these mountains, as is well known, is composed of granite, intermixed with and resting on which are a series of slaty and stratified rocks (abounding with beds of primitive limestone), the junctions and relations of which, however, are not so well known or so extensively displayed in the sections on the north side of the Grampians as in the opposite quarter of the country.

From the top or shoulder of Cairngorm the descent is easy to Loch Avon, or A'an, a scene almost unrivalled even in Switzerland, yet one which nature seems nearly to have buried beyond human resort; as, though accessible also from Braemar, the distance from any habitation is on that side likewise so great, that it is only possible to visit it and return within the compass of a long summer day, and at the expense of a good deal of fatigue. In Braemar a mountain exists which is called the Eastern or Lesser Cairngorm; and the tourist will have to take care that he be not conducted to it, instead of to the true and higher mountain, which is situated in Inverness-shire.

Having conducted the traveller as far as Loch Avon, we refer him to a brief description of the route between it and Braemar in the preceding branch, merely noticing that it lies

* *Arabis petræa* is also met with on this mountain, and at its base is exceedingly luxuriant, having, no doubt, been transported thither by the agency of water. The very rare plant, *Polytrichum Septentrionale*, is likewise found here.

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up Glen-dhu-lochan, on the east side of Ben-na-main, and across into Glen Dearg, and the continuation of it, Glen Lui, to the Linn of Dee.

6. Proceeding now from the ferry at Rothiemurchus, through the Rothiemurchus woods in a south-easterly direction, we ascend towards Ben Mac Dhui and the Dee; but on the way, or rather on some different day, for time is precious *en route* for Braemar, we must not omit to visit Loch-an-Eilan.

Loch-an-Eilan is only about two miles distant from the Spey; and the road to it winds round the beautiful birch-clad hill, the Ord Bain, which rises from its western shore; but the lake, its castle, and its woods, recal to the imagination rather the things we read of in the novels of the Otranto school than a scene of real life. "In some parts of it, the rocky precipices rise immediately from the deep water, crowned with the dark woods that fling a profound shadow over it; in others, the solid masses of the trees advance to its edge; while elsewhere open green shores, or low rocky points, or gravelly beaches, are seen: the scattered groups or single trees, which, springing from some bank, wash their roots in the waves that curl against them, adding to the general variety of this wild and singular scene.

"This lake is much embellished by an ancient castle standing on an island within it, and even yet entire, though roofless. As a Highland castle, it is of considerable dimensions; and, the island being scarcely larger than its foundations, it appears, in some places, to rise immediately out of the water. Its ancient celebrity is considerable, since it was one of the strongholds of the Cumings, the particular individual whose name is attached to it being the ferocious personage known by the name of the Wolf of Badenoch. It has passed now to a tenant not more ferocious, who is a fit emblem and representative of the red-handed Highland chief: the eagle has built his eyrie on the walls."—(*Dr. Macculloch.*)

7. After traversing for about ten miles along the course of the Alt Dhui, the shelving slopes on the north and west of Cairngorm, of the vast base on which rest the ample superincumbent masses of Cairngorm, Ben Mac Dhui, and Braeriach; and the adjoining Grampian mountains, the summit is attained of a highly elevated pass, where the water shears in the opposite direction from that up which we have been toiling. Here

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we may define the relative position of the more distinctive mountain masses. We are now at the north-west of Ben Mac Dhui, to the north-east of which lies Cairngorm, and south from it Ben-na-Main and the lesser Cairngorm—these towering Alps encircling the secluded waters of Loch Aven. A great defile runs along the western side of Ben Mac Dhui, through which the infant waters of the Dee make their way. On the west side stretches Braeriach, Cairntoul, and Ben-na-Vrochan. All these mountains range about 4000, several to nearly 4300 feet, while Ben Mac Dhui is computed to rise as high as 4390 feet above the level of the sea; and, if so, of the precision of which measurement, the only, if any room for doubt, may rest in its inland position—exceeding by 20 feet the height of Ben Nevis. All the eastern and north-eastern faces of these, as of most of our mountains, are precipitous, while the western sides present accessible slopes. The wall, as it is called, of the Braeriach, flanking the summit level of Glendee, is a stupendous lengthened range of precipice, computed to be about 2000 feet of perpendicular height. This gigantic cliff forms a very arresting feature of the scenery. Cairntoul projects its huge bare mass in front of the ridge of the Braeriach, intercepting the sunbeams from the wild ravine or corry which descends from this vast barrier. The granite mountains around are remarkable for the teeming springs of water which gush up near the very summits of the mountains. These discharge numberless torrents down the mountain sides, and line the upper reaches of Glendee with a series of cataracts, nowhere in this country matched in number and altitude. And the impending crags and expanded acclivities which stretch around, surpass in extent and continuity most other scenes of the kind.

8. It is matter of dispute whether one of the streams pouring down the flank of Ben Mac Dhui, or another called the Garachary, which comes foaming down the corry between the Braeriach and Cairntoul, is to be regarded as the true parent Dee. The first buries itself, in its descent, amid granitic masses which strew the hill side—to reappear in a series of reservoirs of the most remarkable character, called the "Springs or Wells of the Dee," embedded in structures of nature's workmanship—exhibiting a strange degree of regularity. Near the top of the pass, the bottom of the ravine is occupied by a succession of terraces of broken fragments of stone, presenting, in

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their downward fronts, so many ledges of masonry one above the other. On each terrace—five in number—there is a deep well of the most limpid water, of varying capacity ; the lowest of very considerable dimensions. At the bottom of all, issues a stream of no mean volume, even thus early. The vegetation around is stunted and scanty, and the rock-work of the wells is almost destitute of soil. For about twelve miles from this point, to near about where it deflects to the east, the Dee hurries its waters over a broken rocky bed, in rapids and cascades, and quieter intervals, and formidable-looking linns—receiving constant accessories from the adjoining hills. The first main tributary is the Garachary, which joins it from the west, about three miles below the springs. It issues from a well near the topmost summit of Braeriach, and has some length of course at this high elevation before it precipitates itself down along the edge of the stupendous wall—its progress marked by a permanent seam of snow-white purity. It joins the Dee at the foot of Cairntoul. Expanded, upreared screens of naked rock of the most imposing altitude are drawn around. And this scene of desolation is made doubly impressive by the reflection how utterly secluded it is—there being no dwelling of any kind, however mean, for many miles in all directions.

Next to the Garachary, the Dee is enlarged in volume by the Geusachan, which, on the further side of Cairntoul, descends from Ben-na-Vrochan and an adjoining mountain, accomplishing near its origin one sheer slide of 1000 feet.

9. Ben Mac Dhui is easy of ascent from the upper part of Glen Dee, and the scene from the summit probably surpasses that from any other of our celebrated mountains. The sea can be descried on three sides. To the south and west the expanse of mountain heaps is prodigious—its great extent indicated by such remote points as Ben Lawers, Ben Lomond, Ben Cruachan, and Ben Nevis. Looking north, the Moray, Nairn, and Banffshire hills, with those of the contiguous section of Invernessshire, subside into very moderate proportions, while intermediate lies the smiling valley of the Spey ; and beyond, the blue waters of the Moray Firth, girdled by the distant hills of Ross and Sutherlandshires. While on the east, prone at our feet, lie the headlong and stupendous precipices which encompass Loch Aven.

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The direct descent to Loch Aven from Ben Mac Dhui is almost impracticable, and besides the loss of time and over-exertion would render it impossible to reach any better resting-place than the shelter-stone, a large fragment of rock on its banks, under which a night bivouac has occasionally been made. Should the tourist incline, however, to vary his route, he may descend into Glen-Lui-beg and Glen Lui, and reach Strath Dee, below the Linn of Dee, instead of regaining Glen Dee, and following the course of the river.

10. As the Dee descends, the mountains diminish, and the glen widens out. Near the bend of the river the Geldie joins it also from the west, about nine miles from Castletown of Braemar. Some distance above the junction, the waters of the Dee encounter a large rock, in which they have excavated two chambers—the lower considerably the largest, and the waterway in both at a considerable depth. Into the first, the access is by a very confined passage, and from either chamber the contents, contracting overflow—from the lowest in a fall of some height. These excavations are called "The Chest of the Dee." The "Linn of Dee," where its waters are pent up in an extremely narrow duct of some length, occurs half a dozen miles above the Castletown, and will, with this section of Strathdee, be found described in the preceding branch.

11. Of the other two sequestered routes above mentioned, the first commences from the Ferry of Insh (five miles west from Aviemore), and proceeds through Glen Feshie and Minikaig, and through Glen Tilt to Athole. It is shorter than the public road by at least twenty miles, and its elevation is not so great as might be expected.

On the third route the traveller should start from Kingussie early in the morning. Its course lies through the Forest of Gaick, and by the Water of Bruar, and it ascends to a greater elevation, and is more dangerous, than the one just alluded to. To the pedestrian it does not shorten the road from Aviemore to Perth or Dunkeld so considerably as Minikaig ; and it is exceedingly unsafe in stormy weather, from the drifting of the snow, which not only obscures the path, but fills up the passes and openings through which he has to proceed. Some years ago, a party of soldiers were nearly lost on this route ; and some of them are said never to have recovered the cold and fatigue they endured. The hardy inhabitants of the country

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often attempt to cross the mountains in this direction, and not unfrequently perish on the way. The most awful occurrence, however, known to have taken place in the Forest of Gaick happened on New Year's Day 1799. A party of huntsmen, headed by a gentleman of the name of Macpherson, proceeded the previous night to a hut or bothie in the hill, that they might be out early in the morning in quest of the deer. A tremendous thunder-storm, accompanied with wind and snow, came on, and by the morning the hut was destroyed, the stones scattered about, and every inmate of it perished; not one having survived to explain the catastrophe. Some have imagined that the accident was occasioned by an avalanche of snow from the adjoining height; others, that electricity was the cause; and, of course, the country people have their tales and surmises of a blacker and more fearful character. The guns of the party were found twisted, most probably from the effects of lightning; but the men themselves seem to have been suffocated in bed, for only one of the bodies was found a little way beyond the spot on which the hut stood.

12. Before closing this notice of the Grampian mountains, it seems proper that we describe a little more particularly their structure. They are in general remarkable for their extreme sterility and the desolate aspect which they present. The summits are rounded, sometimes nearly flat, to a great extent, and entirely covered by disintegrating blocks of stone, together with grit and sand, except in a few places, where the granite rocks present the singular appearance of large tabular protruding pinnacles, having their blocks seemingly arranged in regular strata. Most of the mountains exhibit perpendicular precipices near the summit, which generally assume a semicircular form, constituting the hollows called *corries*, and having a lake at their base. In decomposing, the granite assumes either a red or whitish colour, from the character of its constituent felspar; while on the large scale it splits into masses of a tabular form, the concentric or globular arrangement being rare. Except near the base of the precipices, it is difficult to determine whether the blocks and stones which cover these mountains are partially disintegrated and decomposed fragments of the constituent masses, or of diluvial or other origin. On the summits there are extensive tracts of grit and sand, among which fragments occur but sparingly. In other places the fragments are inter-

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mixed with grit and sand; and in others huge piles of broken tabular masses appear, with very little grit or sand in their intervals. In the open glens there are immense deposits of diluvium or alluvium; hillocks of from ten to sixty or eighty feet occur abundantly, which are generally of an oblong form, but rarely present any appearance from which the direction of the currents that had formed them can be decidedly inferred, though there can be no doubt that their constituent particles were derived from the adjoining mountains.

13. We subjoin, in the note below, the names of some of the rarer and more characteristic plants of this mountain district;* and we have only to add, that it has also long been distinguished for its beautiful rock crystals (of a dark and of a light brown or yellow colour), called *Cairngorm* stones, which are now more carefully sought for in the debris than formerly, and which of late have been discovered in fine six-sided prisms, terminated by six-sided pyramids, extending from one inch to six or eight inches in length, and of which specimens have lately been found weighing ten pounds of solid crystal. Topaz, beryl, amethyst, and garnet, also occur in these mountains.

* Aira alpina. Aira vivipara. Alopecurus alpinus. Apargia Taraxaci. Arabis hispida. Arabis petræa. Azalea procumbens. Betula nana. Cetraria islandica. Cetraria nivalis. Hieracium alpinum Halleri. Goodyera repens. Juncus castaneus. Linnæa borealis. Luzula arcuata. Luzula spicata et trifida. Lycopodium annotinum. Polytrichum hercynicum. Polytrichum septentrionale. Salix herbacea. Saxifraga cæspitosa. Saxifraga oppositifolia. Sibbaldia procumbens. Silene acaulis flor. alb. Thalictrum alpinum. Vaccinium uliginosum. Veronica alpina. Veronica saxatilis.

ROUTE SECOND.—BRANCH D.

STRATHSPEY AND LOCHINDORBH.

Church of Duthill; Tower of Muckerach, 1.—Castle of Lochindorbh, 2.—Its Siege, 3.—Grantown; Orphan Asylum, 4.—Castle Grant; View from the Tower, 5.—Battle of the Haughs of Cromdale, 6.—Castle Roy; Tullochgorum; The Grampians; Glenmore Forest, 7.—Strathspey below Grantown; Ballindalloch House, 8.—Aberlour; Craigelachie Bridge, 9.

	Miles.
Bridge of Carr to Grantown	10
Inveravon	13
Aberlour	7½
Rothes	4
Fochabers	10
	44½

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Having already described one side, at least, of that portion of Strathspey, through which the road from Inverness to Perth passes, the present branch will refer chiefly to the district below the Bridge of Carr.

1. The banks of the Dulnain improve in appearance after passing Carr Bridge; and he who would form his notions of Strathspey from the character of the country he has passed over in approaching it from the north, will find himself agreeably mistaken. The first glimpse of the manse of Duthill, from the bank of Dalrachney, close by the inn, opens at the same time to our view a broad valley, beautifully varied with cultivated fields and smooth meadows, and bordered with gently sloping hills, which conduct the eye far into the bosom of Strathspey. The church of Duthill is rather an interesting building, as it is one of the few old Popish chapels which survived the Reformation. The tomb of the family of Grant of Grant reposes against its northern wall. One part of the enclosure is reserved for the chief and his offspring, while the outer part belongs to collateral branches, as the families of Kinchurdy, Tullochgriban, and Balladirin. Three miles to the east of Duthil Manse, the road passes close to the old tower of Muckerach, the high walls of which are visible at a great distance. It stands on the brink of a little dell, on the brow of a hill, which commands an outlook to the west as far as Craigelachie and Aviemore, and eastward a great way over the valley of the Spey. It was the primeval seat of the family of Rothiemurchus, and was erected in 1598 by Patrick, second son of John, laird of Grant, and Margaret Stewart, daughter of the Earl of Athole, who was his first spouse. The founder's father was called John Baold, *the Simple*, and was the son of Shemis-nan-Creach, the Ravager, who died in 1550. The lintel stone over the doorway has been carried off, but still exists in one of the farm-houses at Rothiemurchus. It contains the year 1598, in which the castle was finished, with the owner's arms (three antique crowns and three wolves' heads), and on the scroll, "In God is al my Trest." The building forms a most picturesque ruin, and is beautifully situated; but it is a mere shell, its roof and all the interior partitions having fallen away. It was only a castellated mansion, and hence had not the solidity or thickness of wall sufficient to keep it as entire as many structures more ancient than itself.

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2. Far different in structure and in story from the tower now described, is the Castle of Lochindorbh, situated in an island in the lake of that name, at the base of the knock of Brae-Moray, about eight miles over the hills to the northward. This was the greatest stronghold of the Cumings, and rivalled in extent, and the number of its defences, the fortresses of royalty. Lochindorbh lies at no great distance from the old military road which crosses the country between Strathspey and Fort-George, by Dulsie Bridge and Cawdor, and it can be approached also by a new road from Grantown, by Farness to Cawdor, Nairn, and Forres. Nothing can be conceived more bleak and desolate than the moorish country in which the lake lies, nor more uninteresting and dull than this sheet of water. The lichen-clad walls of the castle, and the flocks of sea-fowl skimming about it, and which nestle within its deserted chambers, add an indescribable character of loneliness to the otherwise gloomy features of the scene. Every part of the island (which is about an acre in extent) is occupied by the high castellated wall, so that no landing could be effected on it save at the appointed haven. The building is quadrangular, with round towers at the corners, and on the side nearest the land the high connecting screens are double.

From "Douglas's Peerage," and the public printed records, we learn that the Black John Cumyn of Badenoch died about the year 1300, at his castle of Lochindorbh; and that, as his grandson (of the same name) died soon after, without issue, the direct male line of the family became extinct.

3. David II. bestowed on his constable of Edinburgh Castle, Symon Reed, the forest of Lochindorbh, the acknowledgment of service to be three arrows deliverable at Inverness; and Robert II., in the first year of his reign, gave to his son, Alexander Seneschal, and the heirs of his body, whom failing, to David, Earl of Strathearn, and to the heirs of his body, certain parts of Badenoch, with the castle, forest, and lands of Lochindorbh, in the same manner as the deceased John Cumyn and his predecessors held the same. In the year 1335, when the Earl of March defeated and killed David de Strathbogie, Earl of Athole, at Kilblain, and raised the siege of Kildrummy Castle, the Earl of Athole's lady fled to Lochindorbh. Sir Alexander Gordon laid siege to it; but next year, King Edward of England obliged him to retire; and traditions still exist, though

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not very correct, regarding the blockade it had previously withstood. The spot where the besieging army lay is on the southern shore of the loch, and can still be distinguished by the smoothness of its surface, and the double ditches which surround it. The catapultæ, and other warlike engines used for throwing large stones, seem to have had considerable effect from this position, as the shattered state of the corner wall of the castle immediately opposite still testifies.

In the year 1606, James, Earl of Moray, disponed a considerable part of his lands near Inverness, together with this lake, the buildings within the same, and the adjoining shielings, to Sir John Campbell of Calder; and that family seem to have contributed considerably to the demolition of the castle; for, among other things, the great iron gate at the door of entrance was carried away, and may now be seen in the peel of Cawdor. By an excambion, or exchange of land, it has, with all the adjoining grounds, fallen into the possessions of the family of Grant of Grant.

4. To return now to the road to Grantown. At the Bridge of Curr, below Muckerach, the road from Aviemore through the centre of Strathspey, unites with that which we are now following. Thence to Grantown (six miles and a half) we enjoy a most extensive view of the broad and rich valley of the Spey, which is varied with cultivated fields, large pastures, and occasional rocky and wooded knolls, and backed in the distance by the Grampians. The chain of these mountains here visible, stretching from the Cairngorms in the west to Bel-rinnis in Banffshire on the east, is grand and interesting. In the centre of it, the mountains of Abernethy, over which rises Boinag, the highest in the whole range, form a most imposing group: the softer mountains of Cromdale are not so picturesque; but Bel-rinnis, beyond them, closes in the view, with a sharp spiry peak of the most delicate tone of blue.

No village in the north of Scotland can compare with Grantown in neatness and regularity, and in beauty of situation. The houses are of a small size, just suited to the condition of the inhabitants: they are about 150 in number, of pretty uniform dimensions, and are all built of fine-grained whitish granite. Grantown possesses a branch bank and good inn, and a neat orphan asylum. The village was founded, about eighty years ago, by the late Sir James Grant of Grant, a great bene-

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factor of his clan and country; and it now contains about 700 inhabitants, who are chiefly artisans and shopkeepers.

5. Castle Grant lies about a mile and a half to the east of Grantown, in the front of a high terraced bank, and is so concealed amid deep forests of pine, larch, oak, elm, and chesnut, that the visitor is almost at the gate before he is aware of being in its vicinity. The ancient residence of the chief of the clan Grant is, in fact, buried amid trees of noble growth, the smaller groups of which would, on other estates, be deemed woods of respectable extent. The walks and glades are numerous and intricate, but no one can form an idea of the extent of ground occupied by the trees, unless he examine it from the top of the battlements. The view from thence is magnificent, ranging over extensive forests of pine, variegated with corn land, intersected by the Spey, and bounded by lofty mountain chains. Part of Castle Grant is said to have existed during the times of the Cumings, but successive additions have formed it now into a high quadrangular pile of many storeys, projecting backwards at each end, and pierced with windows of all shapes and sizes, the more modern portions not being the most elegant. The south side is in the proper style of the chateaus of Charles I. and II.'s time, with a large base court, along which are arranged two formal rows of servants' apartments in continuation of the projections of the main building, and from which a flight of steps conducts to the lawn, and on the north-east side some additions have recently been made. The ancient hall makes a handsome, though rather gloomy, dining-room. All the apartments and lobbies are hung round with valuable paintings, among which is an interesting series of old Highland portraits. The Death of Patroclus, by Hamilton, is considered the best in the collection, though there are many others highly prized. The armoury, and the collection of old writs and charters, in this mansion, are also good.

6. Though the neighbourhood of Castle Grant was the scene of many sanguinary feudal conflicts, the engagement which took place on "the Haughs of Cromdale," on the 1st of May 1690, was the most important in the annals of the parish. The cause of James II. having become desperate by the death of Viscount Dundee, at Killiecrankie, in July 1689, all his adherents were scattered or capitulated, except a few men headed by Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, who trusted to the

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approach of winter, and the inaccessible nature of the mountains on the west coast, to which they retired. When the spring of 1690 began to open up, they sent round their emissaries for recruits; and until the seed-time should be over, before which no body of Highlanders could be induced to leave their homes, Colonel Buchan was dispatched with a band of the Macleans, Macdonalds, Macphersons, Camerons, and Grants of Glen Moriston, to lay waste the low country, and harass and divert King William's troops. On their march they plundered the inhabitants of Strathspey, and in Strathbogie they burnt the house of Edinglassie. Sir Thomas Livingston, who had been stationed at Inverness with a considerable force of cavalry and infantry, resolved to intercept them before they regained the interior of the country; and the Highlanders, hearing of his approach, at once betook themselves to the hills. They encamped one evening, however, on the south side of the low valley of the Spey, near the old kirk of Cromdale, about three miles to the east of the position where Grantown now stands. By the dawn of day, the enemy's dragoons, led by a part of the clan Grant, descried them from the top of the hill above the castle, and, afraid of being seen as the light increased, they plunged into the woods and came down the valley of Achinarrow; whence Sir Thomas Livingston proceeded direct to the river Spey, and forded it below Dellachaple. The outposts of the rebels now gave the alarm, but the dragoons were on them before those in the camp were able to form into order, or even dress themselves. They hastened in the utmost confusion to the hill of Cromdale, pursued by the "red coats:" many of them were totally naked, and were easily cut down. At the base of the hill they made a momentary stand, but their ranks were broken through; and nothing but the steepness and ruggedness of the ground above, and their customary swiftness of foot, saved those who fled from the sabre. A small party who kept together crossed the river next day, but were followed and were cut down almost to a man on the moor of Grenish, near Aviemore; while some, headed by Macdonald of Keppoch, who attempted to entrench themselves in the Castle of Loch-an-Eilan, in Rothiemurchus, were beaten off by the laird and his tenants.

Thus perished for a season the hopes of the adherents of the house of Stuart.

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7. We have now passed through parts of the parishes of Duthil, Inverallon, and Cromdale. To the eastward of Grantown we enter on the shire of Moray ; but before resuming the description of the strath downwards to the sea, we add a few observations on the south bank of the Spey up to Rothiemurchus. At the bridge above Grantown three roads diverge : one proceeding eastward to the town of Keith, which is about thirty-six, and to Fochabers about thirty-two miles distant ; a second running straight up into the mountains in a direction nearly south, and which is the old military road by Tomintoul and Braemar to the low country ; the third is the Parliamentary Commissioners' road, which runs along the bank of the Spey to the ferry-house of Inverdruie, near Rothiemurchus (about eighteen miles distant), where it crosses the river and joins the main road to Perth. This is the route we are now to follow.

Passing several farm-houses, about four miles beyond Grantown, we come to the ruins of Castle Roy, another quadrangular fortress of the Cumings, provided with two square projecting towers, with a noble and high Norman arched gateway. The ruin stands on a little knoll, which commands a most extensive view—a requisite of every residence in the days of yore ; but in itself it is a mere shell, and the only interesting relic within its high screens is a curious vault or crypt near the western corner. The history of this castle is entirely lost.

One other mile leads the traveller to the Bridge of Nethy, where there is a small public-house ; and passing which we cross the river that gives name to the parish, and along which we behold the relics of a great pine forest stretching away to the base of the Grampians. Thence to the confines of Glenmore, and the borders of Kincardine, we pass over a sandy plain, interspersed with deep peat mosses, which exhibit the fallen stems and roots of large oaks and pine trees. On the opposite side of the Spey are the parks and farm-house of Tullochgorum, the native seat of the clan Phatrick, and at the mention of which every Highland heart will beat which is attached to the poetry and ancient music of Strathspey. We now approach near the Grampians, and each step as we advance, unfolds more distinctly to our view the details of their wild rocks, huge precipices, tremendous chasms glistening with the light of their hardened beds of snow, or streaked with alpine torrents ; and their tortuous valleys, which deceive the eye and puzzle the

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imagination to trace out their windings. Passing the kirk of Kincardine, the road to Glenmore displays itself, stealing and twisting along a mountain precipice; and then traversing some beautiful plains of natural meadow grass, we enter for a short way the outskirts of the birch woods—the lower fringes of the forest—and, emerging thence, Craigelachie, the Ord Bain of Rothiemurchus, and each flinty dome and forehead of the Cairngorms, suddenly burst on our view. For a few hundred yards the road glides along the margin of the Loch of Pitoulish, a beautiful foreground to the alpine landscape; and then, proceeding through the larch plantations of Rothiemurchus, crossing several impetuous streams, on which are saw-mills and log-houses, presenting pictures on a small scale of the great forest scenes of America, it leads us to the ferry-house of Inverdruie, where we cross the Spey and repose ourselves at the inn of Aviemore; but Loch-an-Eilan and its castle ought to be previously visited (see p. 288); or if we wish we can proceed along the south bank of the Spey by a new district road to Ruthven and Kingussie, distant about twelve miles.

8. Returning now to Grantown, and pursuing the course of the Spey eastward, beyond the long section of the valley in which the village, and Castle Grant are situated, we find lumpish hills which bound the strath for about fourteen miles below, keeping far asunder from each other; but a great alluvial deposit on the south side of the valley, of varying surface and inclination, fills up the greater part of it, and confines the flat ground which skirts the river to very narrow bounds. The Spey takes occasionally a few bold and sudden sweeps, but in general it bends gradually from side to side. The wide alluvial deposit just alluded to is covered with heathy pasture, a little chequered with cultivated ground. The stripe of land along the river is cultivated; but, as the road is for the most part at some distance from the water, the ride as far as Aberlour is by no means interesting. At Inveravon, between the steep banks and in the narrow space by the side of the river Avon, we pass Ballindalloch, the massive-looking mansion of Sir John Macpherson Grant, Bart. Like many of the residences of our Highland gentry, it comprises, amid commodious modern buildings, an imposing old square tower, giving a bluff smack of the olden time to the edifice. Fine old avenues conduct through the park towards the junction of the Avon with the Spey.

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9. Close by Ballindalloch is the little inn of Dalnashaugh, thirteen miles from Grantown. At Aberlour, (seven miles and a half farther on,) a village, consisting of a street and small square of substantially built low houses, we regain the bank of the river, which the road crosses about a mile below at Craigelachie Bridge. It consists of a very handsome iron arch, with a round embattled tower at each corner; and the reach for four miles below is eminently beautiful. Three miles below the bridge we pass the village of Rothes, which is composed of from 200 to 300 small straw-thatched cottages, arranged in four streets, diverging at unequal angles from a common centre. On the opposite bank of the river the house of Arndilly lies embosomed amid fine woods. After taking one or two bold sweeps or curves below Rothes, the strath is prolonged, in a continued straight line, to its termination at Speymouth, fourteen miles from Rothes, four miles beyond Fochabers, where the hills and terraces, to which they give place, gradually subside into a smooth plain bordering on the sea.—(For a description of Elgin and Fochabers, see Route III.)

ROUTE SECOND.—BRANCH E.

STRATHDEARN AND THE RIVER FINDHORN.

Monaliagh Mountains; Sources of the Findhorn; Clach Sgoilte, 1.—Upper Part of Strathdearn, 2.—Interesting Walking Excursion, 3.—Dell of Dalmigavie; Rapidity of the Findhorn; Cullachy, 4.—The Streens, 5.—A Cattle-lifting Incident, 6.—Dulsie; Dunearn, 7.—Farness; The Divie, 8.—Dunphail, 9.—Relugas, 10.—Brig of Rannoch, 11.—The Esses, 12.—Heronry, 13.—The Mead of St. John; Altyre; Family Records, 14.—Findhorn Floods; The Great Flood of 1829; its height, 15.

	Miles.
Fall of Foyers to Whitebridge (see Route I.)	4
Killin, South End	8
Coignafearn.....	14
Freeburn	10
Dulsie Bridge	16
Forres	18
Findhorn	5
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1. The central districts of the southern division of Invernessshire are distinguished by a group of lofty and rugged mountains, known under the general name of the Monaliagh Moun-

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tains (the grey, misty mountains), which are composed chiefly of granite and quartz rock, and contain within their arms the sources of the rivers Spey, Dulnain, Findhorn, and Nairn, and of various streams which discharge their waters on the south side of Loch Ness.

These mountains rise in long ridges from an elevated base of dark heathy moor, and they possess but little of the abrupt serrated aspect of the west-coast hills ; their outlines being less decided, and their acclivities less broken. Extensive straths, or pastoral valleys, abounding in streams and herbage, lie embosomed among them, and support great herds of black cattle, for which the district has long been famed ; while the adjoining solitudes, which are wide, and rarely visited by the foot of man, continue still to be the retreats of great numbers of roe and red deer, and of grouse and ptarmigan. A scattered, but hardy, and very ancient Celtic race people the straths of this district, whose almost exclusive occupation is that of shepherds or drovers. The valleys of Killin (described in Route 1. page 153) and of Strathdearn, are among the most interesting of these straths ; and, as the tourist can very pleasantly spend a few days in exploring them, we shall in this place give an account of the latter, and conduct him along the whole of the river Findhorn, which, for variety and beauty of scenery, is unequalled in Scotland. It will be seen from the map that its course, on the whole, is remarkably straight, bearing nearly from S. W. to N. E., and parallel, to a considerable extent, with the strath and river Nairn. Its sources lie many miles to the westward of Freeburn (on the great Highland road), in the neighbourhood of which stage the road crosses its stream ; but, like mightier rivers, its true source is a subject of dispute : some maintaining that the parent rill comes from the mountains of Laggan, and not far from the head of the Spey ; while others regard the mossy springs that gush from a mountain nearer Stratherrick, or even the drops that ooze from a particular cloven rock, hence called " Clach Sgoilte," in the elevated opening, to be immediately alluded to, as the true sources of the Findhorn.

2. The tourist may enter Strathdearn, as the upper part of the valley is called, (the ancient name of the river being the " Earn,") from the western district of Stratherrick. Starting from the small inn at Whitebridge, on the Foyers river, and four miles above the falls, by a hill-path which leads along the

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Loch of Killin, and from the south end of the vale of that name, up a strait shelving strath running eastward, about twelve miles from Whitebridge, he reaches the summit of an elevated opening in the hills. Soon after, he approaches the isolated Clach Sgoilte, whence the infant streamlet of the Findhorn flows slowly for about a mile, and then descends for two miles and a half with considerable rapidity, when it is joined by the other more southerly branch of the river. The course of these united streams lies, for seven miles, to the shooting lodge of Coignafearn (belonging to Mackintosh of Mackintosh), through a strath appearing generally about 200 yards wide ; the bottom, at times, level and smooth, at others more or less broken, covered with grass and heath, and a considerable quantity of juniper bushes. The hills rise in steep acclivities, and increase in height in the progress eastwards, being destitute of trees, with the exception of a few scattered birches, and they are rather of a verdant than heathy character. The valley winds a little so as to present itself in successive sections With the exception of two or three bothies, occupied by shepherds during the summer, and a more substantial cottage about a mile below the junction of the river (an accessory to the shooting-lodge of Coignafearn), no habitation is to be seen between Lord Lovat's shooting-lodge, at the end of Loch Killin, and that of Coignafearn, a distance of seventeen miles.

3. We have been thus particular as to this little frequented route, as, from the descriptions of the remainder of the course of the Findhorn, and those of the Vale of Killin, pedestrians may be induced to explore the scenery of both, after that of the Falls of Foyers and Loch Ness, and to undertake an excursion of three or four days betwixt Inverness and Forres, by the valley of the Findhorn. A road has been formed, from the Highland road, as far as Coignafearn, which is ten or eleven miles west from Freeburn. From Coignafearn, to the north end of Killin, a distance of perhaps twenty miles, the foot track is rough, and not such as to be readily followed by a stranger, which, of course, is immaterial, except as it impedes his progress ; on which account, as well as to avoid all risk from mist, it may be prudent for him to take a guide across the pass. The distance from Whitebridge to Freeburn will require fully twelve hours' walking. From the General's Hut, at Foyers, where the accommodation is better, the distance is five miles more.

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4. At Coignafearn, the strath twists so that the succeeding compartment is screened from observation till entered upon. It continues, for about three miles a third of a mile in width, and seems as if blocked up at the lower end by an eminence clothed with a fir plantation : steep and lofty hills rise on all hands, so that this scene possesses a character of most perfect seclusion. It is called the Dell of Dalmigavie. The mountains are grand and imposing, from their massive bulk ; yet sweet and pleasing, from their simple configuration, regular surface, and smiling livery of purple and green. On the north side, the acclivities assume the most brilliant emerald tint. The Findhorn, in this and the upper part of its course, runs over a stony channel, only a few feet depressed beneath the surface of the adjacent ground, which is here quite level, and the stream is uniformly rapid. It is liable to sudden speats or inundations, rising at times so as to present a frightful front, several feet high, to the descending torrent, and sweeping along with such impetuosity as to endanger the lives of any persons who may then happen to be crossing the usual fords. The corn-fields and meadow-grass on the low grounds are also precariously situated ; and the proprietors have been obliged, at considerable expense, to line the sinuosities of the river in many places with bulwarks of stone and turf. Below the central eminence above alluded to, the valley, for nearly two miles, contracts to the width of the sixth of a mile. The upper portions of the hills are here, for the most part, inaccessible ; and they are intersected by deep and steep ravines. On an elevated recess, on the north side, stands the farm-house of Daltomich ; and, further on, Glen Mazeran joins the valley on the same side. Below this, is seen the house of Dalmigavie (Mackintosh), five to six miles from Coignafearn, on an elevated terraced spot on the opposite side, graced with dwarf birch trees. Opposite to Dalmigavie, a road strikes across the hill to Farr in Strathnairn, whence it is continued straight across the intermediate range to Inverness. The length of this road is about sixteen miles. Below Dalmigavie, the valley of the Findhorn, for six miles, to the Bridge above Corrybrough, (where the Highland road crosses,) is nowise interesting. The hills slope gently from the stream, and are covered with heather and grass ; but the estate of Cullachy, immediately adjoining that of Dalmigavie to the east, and fronting it, lays claim to be ranked as classic ground, from having

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been the patrimony and early residence of the distinguished statesman and orator, Sir James Mackintosh. It is now undergoing great improvement from the small farmers using extensively the primitive limestone which abounds in the hills.

5. Below the Bridge of Corrybrough the strath widens to a circumference of six or eight miles, presenting the aspect of having been once the bed of a great lake, which found two outlets, one by the lower basin of Loch Moy, and thence to the river Nairn, and the other through the mountains to the north-east of Freeburn, by the gorge called the Streens. Indeed, the present channel of the river is only about eighteen feet above the surface of Loch Moy ; and the parallel terrace banks encircling the valley on all hands, point out the height at which the waters anciently stood.

The distance from Freeburn to Dulsie is about sixteen miles, and is passable only on foot. The scene, however, is worthy of the exertion required to explore it. Continuous chains of hills rise suddenly on either side of a winding stripe of level ground, and at times precipitous rocky mountains of blood-red granite jutting up in lofty cliffs, rise from the water's-edge, and confine, and so completely overshadow the river's course, that some of the hamlets on its banks are said to be scarcely ever visited by the sun's rays. There is not much wood; but the bottom of the valley is pleasingly chequered with cultivated and meadow land, so that the sense of seclusion and repose and the occasional stern character of the Streens is relieved by the traces of unpretending industry.*

6. But it is impossible to describe this scene in language more graphic than that used by the late Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, who may well be accounted the historian of Morayshire, and especially of the Findhorn.

"It was about this period, and (though it may surprise many) it was not much more than fifty years ago (prior to 1817), that Mr. R——l, a gentleman of the low country of Moray, was awakened early in a morning by the unpleasant intelligence of the Highlanders having carried off the whole of his cattle from a distant hill grazing in Brae Moray, a few miles above the junction of the rapid rivers Findhorn and Divie, and

* The Streens have recently been made accessible to carriages by a road formed by Lord Cawdor, the proprietor, for the use of his tenants, and which, proceeding from the village of Cawdor, is about nine miles long.

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between both. He was an active man; so that, after a few questions put to the breathless messenger, he lost not a moment in summoning and arming several servants: and, instead of taking the way to his farm, he struck at once across the country, in order to get, as speedily as possible, to a point where the rocks and woods, hanging over the deep bed of the Findhorn, first begin to be crowned by steep and lofty mountains, receding in long and misty perspective. This was the grand pass into the boundless wastes frequented by the robbers; and here Mr. R——l forded the river to its southern bank, and took his stand with his little party, well aware that, if he could not intercept his cattle here, he might abandon all further search after them.

"The spot chosen for the ambuscade was a beautiful range of scenery known by the name of the Streens. So deep is the hollow in many places, that some of the little cottages, with which its bottom is here and there sprinkled, have Gaelic appellations, implying *that they never see the sun*. There were then no houses near them; but the party lay concealed among some huge fragments of rock, shivered, by the wedging ice of the previous winter, from the summit of a lofty crag, that hung half across the narrow holm where they stood. A little way farther down the river, the passage was contracted to a rude and scrambling footpath, and behind them the glen was equally confined. Both extremities of the small amphitheatre were shaded by almost impenetrable thickets of birch, hazel, alder, and holly, whilst a few wild pines found a scanty subsistence for their roots in midway air, on the face of the crags, and were twisted and wreathed, for lack of nourishment, into a thousand fantastic and picturesque forms. The serene sun of a beautiful summer's day was declining, and half the narrow haugh was in broad and deep shadow, beautifully contrasted by the brilliant golden light that fell on the wooded bank on the other side of the river.

"Such was the scene where Mr. R——l posted his party; and they had not waited long, listening in the silence of the evening, when they heard the distant lowing of the cattle, and the wild shouts of the reivers, re-echoed as they approached by the surrounding rocks. The sounds came nearer and nearer, and, at last, the crashing of the boughs announced the appearance of the more advanced part of the drove; and the animals

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began to issue slowly from amongst the tangled wood, or to rush violently forth, as the blows or shouts of their drivers were more or less impetuous. As they came out, they collected themselves into a group, and stood bellowing, as if unwilling to proceed farther. In rear of the last of the herd, Mr. R——l saw bursting singly from different parts of the brake, a party of fourteen Highlanders, all in the full costume of the mountains, and armed with dirk, pistols, and claymore; and two or three of them carrying antique fowling-pieces. Mr. R——l's party consisted of not more than ten or eleven; but, telling them to be firm, he drew them forth from their ambuscade, and ranged them on the green turf. With some exclamations of surprise, the robbers, at the shrill whistle of their leader, rushed forwards, and ranged themselves in front of their spoil. Mr. R——l and his party stood their ground with determination, whilst the robbers appeared to hold a council of war. At last their chief, a little athletic man, with long red hair curling over his shoulders, and with a pale and thin but acute visage, advanced a little way before the rest. 'Mr. R——l,' said he, in a loud voice, and speaking good English, though in a Highland accent, 'are you for peace or war? if for war, look to yourself; if for peace and treaty, order your men to stand fast, and advance to meet me.' 'I will treat,' replied Mr. R——l: 'but can I trust to your keeping faith?' 'Trust to the honour of a gentleman!' rejoined the other, with an imperious air. The respective parties were ordered to stand their ground; and the two leaders advanced about seventy or eighty paces each towards the middle of the space, with their loaded guns cocked and presented at each other. A certain sum was demanded for the restitution of the cattle; Mr. R——l had not so much about him, but offered to give what money he had in his pocket, being a few pounds short of what the robber had asked. The bargain was concluded, the money paid, the guns uncocked and shouldered, and the two parties advanced to meet each other in perfect harmony. 'And now, Mr. R——l,' said the leader of the band, 'you must look at your beasts to see that none of them be awanting.' Mr. R——l did so. 'They are all here,' said he, 'but one small dun quey.' 'Make yourself easy about her,' replied the leader: 'she shall be in your pasture before daylight to-morrow morning.' The treaty being thus concluded, the robbers proceeded up the glen, and were soon hid beneath its

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thick foliage; whilst Mr. R——l's people took charge of the cattle, and began to drive them homeward. The reiver was as good as his word. Next morning the dun quey was seen grazing with the herd. Nobody knew how she came there; but her jaded and draggled appearance bespoke the length and the nature of the night journey she had performed."

7. At Dulsie, the old military road proceeding from Fort-George through Strathspey and Braemar crosses the Findhorn by a romantic bridge. The scenery here is of the wildest and most picturesque character, softened, however, by the graceful foliage of birch woods which environ the river's bank.

Dulsie Bridge is about two miles distant from the small inn of Farness, at the junction of the parliamentary roads leading from Nairn and Forres to Strathspey. This inn is, by the latter road, sixteen miles distant from Forres. The tourist, however, should deviate from the beaten path, and keep as close as he can to the southern bank of the river, which, though long and winding, is replete with scenes alternating in the abruptest manner with features of terrific grandeur, and softest sylvan beauty. The whole country for several miles eastward is composed of a highly crystalline porphyritic granite, displaying, in some instances, faces of a hard columnar rock, which confine the waters of the Findhorn to a deep, narrow, and irregular channel; and in other places giving rise (from a tendency in their masses to exfoliate and decompose) to open holms and smooth grassy banks. All the varieties of hardwood, characteristic of the course of Scottish rivers, are seen in rich profusion on both sides of the stream; while the adjoining hills, especially on the north side of the river, also exhibit a few scattered remnants of the ancient pine forests, which formerly covered the country. Towards the east, the eye is attracted by the bright light green masses of the oak and birchen copses of Tarnaway and Relugas, which form the outer fringes of the more sombre pine woods.

About a mile below Dulsie, a beautiful sequestered holm, adjoining the house and policies of Farness (Dougal), greets the traveller, encircled with terraced banks and birchen bowers; and in the centre of it rises a small cairn, with an ancient sculptured tablet, about eight feet high, and half as broad, standing at one end of it, and having a rude cross, and many Runic knots still discernible on its surface. Tradition calls it the stone of

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memorial of a Celtic princess, who perished in the adjoining river while attempting to ford it on horseback with her lover, a Dane. More likely it was the cross of an early Christian hermit.

8. Immediately behind this spot, the high promontory of Farness rises nearly 200 feet above the river, the direct course of which it has shifted, and confined to a deep winding chasm of at least three miles' circuit. A pathway cut in the face of the rock conducts the visitor through this extraordinary opening, down which the river plunges in almost one continued cataract; its craggy sides being set off, and divided into many magnificent studies for the pencil, by clumps of native pine and oak trees, which stretch along the summit and crevices of the rocks. On emerging from the chasm at the lower end, we hail with fresh delight the more open reaches of the river, spread out before the eye for several miles, adorned with sunny banks and waving woods, and displaying also an uncommonly beautiful succession of alluvial terraces, corresponding with one another on the opposite sides of the river, and which rise successively above one another, until they seem to meet in the *flat-topped* Dunmore of Dulsie. Proceeding downwards, the traveller passes the church and manse of Ardclach; and below these, the granite bridge of Farness; and five miles farther down, the bridge of Daltulich, where we again meet another branch of the Nairn road. About a mile below this bridge it is joined, on the south, by its tributary, the Divie, which is the conduit of the Dorback, flowing out of Lochindorbh, and of the numerous streams that fall from Brae Moray and the adjoining heights.

9. The scenery along the Divie, for a stretch of six or seven miles, from the spot where it leaps into its glen, in a wild waterfall, to its junction with the Findhorn, is exquisitely beautiful. The estate of Dunphail, belonging to Mr. Cumming Bruce, M.P., stretches nearly to its upper extremity; and below the junction of the Dorback, on a beautiful terraced holm, surrounded by an ampitheatre of wooded banks, intersected by extensive pleasure walks, and graced by fine old trees, the proprietor has erected his splendid mansion in the Venetian style. The ruins of the old castle, shooting up from a wood-embowered elevation in the grounds, form a peculiar feature of this charming spot.

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10. Below the pleasure-grounds of Dunphail, the glen narrows, and the river Divie again, plunging into a wild rocky channel, with a rapid inclination towards the Findhorn, sweeps along the property of Relugas, another holding of an ancient branch of the Cumings, lately purchased by Mr. MacKillican. All that art, guided by good taste, could accomplish in embellishing and exposing to view the natural beauties of this estate, has been done for it. The old mansion-house, also, which stands on an eminence, a little way from the Findhorn, has been greatly enlarged, and finished off after the Italian fashion; and behind it is a steep conical hill, called the Dun of Relugas, on the summit of which are the remains of a vitrified fort, communicating with similar signal-stations on both the adjoining valleys.

11. Returning to the course of the Findhorn, we observe, just before its junction with the Divie, that it falls into a narrow strait among the rocks by a running cataract, over which the Earls of Moray were wont, till recent times, to keep up a rustic wooden bridge for the use of the district. From Randolph, the great head of their house, who himself used to pass here with a large troop of horsemen when on his way to and from his castle of Tarnaway, the spot is still called the "Brig of Rannoch," and is connected with several memorable transactions. It was, in particular, above this strait that the desperate skirmish of "The Lost Standard" was fought between Randolph and the Cumings, about the year 1340.

12. The river now plunges into a rocky channel, which is surmounted by brushwood, and fir and birch clad slopes, and skirted by large trunks of old oak and pine trees; and behind the house of Logie (Cumming), a winding pathway conducts the stranger, beneath which he sees the river toiling among hard rocks of grey gneiss, traversed by many curiously twisted veins of a flesh-coloured granite, till at last (two miles on) he finds himself suddenly emerge from these rough and irregular primitive masses, and encompassed with scenery spread out before him in gently undulating ridges, and adorned with thick masses of coppice wood, fir, and birch; and through which the Findhorn, taking several long and magnificent sweeps, called the Esses, glides on, a broad and stately stream. It is here, then, that we quit the true alpine district, and enter on the soft sand-

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stone plains of Moray, the forest and castle of Tarnaway, the seat of the Earl of Moray, appearing on the northern bank.*

13. Proceeding downwards along the stream, we soon reach the splendid drives of Altyre (Sir W. Gordon Cumming), which have been formed at great expense, but completely unfold to our view every favourable point commanding the adjoining unrivalled scenery. The river, broad and deep, rolls beneath high banks, the soft flœtz rocks of which it has cut into shelving cliffs, their summits and edges being crowned with large sized trees. Beyond, the low grounds of Moray, enriched by the copious waters of the Findhorn, extend in long perspective towards the sea, which is in turn bounded by the beautiful outlines of the Sutherland and Caithness mountains. On the left a row of very old trees overhanging the water, and skirting the edge of a small meadow of a peculiarly lonely and sequestered character, have, from time immemorial, furnished a retreat to a great number of herons, who have literally encased the branches with their enormous nests. These stately birds, which, when absent from their nests, are always either hovering above the river's course, or patiently sitting on its brink watching their fishy prey, add an indescribable grace to the scene; while the wooded cliffs, opposite their resting-trees, afford ample opportunity to the passing traveller of leisurely studying their interesting and amusing habits.

14. A little way below the heronry the cliff scenery ceases; and a high gravel bank, receding from the river's side towards the east, but again approaching it about half-a-mile off, gives room to a beautiful semicircular space, called the Mead of St. John, from a small religious house which anciently stood on it. Through this fairy green, the Altyre pleasure-walks have been continued; and they are here further adorned with broad shrubberies, and shaded by large wide-spreading oaks. Several roads diverge from this neighbourhood, leading through the adjoining woods to the mansion-house of Altyre, which lies about a mile and a-half to the eastward, embosomed amid "tall ancestral trees." The house and offices have all been fitted up in the very picturesque and pleasing style of modern Italian architecture; and the grounds and gardens (which have been laid out with the greatest taste) vie with the richest examples of park

* Tarnaway is remarkable for its fine old hall, roofed with black oak, and capable of containing 1000 men under arms.—(See Route iii.)

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scenery in this country. Sir William Cumming's domains are still, indeed, in every way befitting the dignity of the ancient Earls of Badenoch, whom he represents, though unaccompanied by the great extent of territory over which they ruled with unrestricted sway. The records of his family have been preserved with much care and regularity; and some of their charters, and extracts of the Baron Court-books of Altyre, which have been published, contain many interesting and curious traits of ancient manners.

Immediately below Cothall, where a high limestone rock closes in the Mead of St. John, the river Findhorn entirely quits its rocky channel, and flows on to the sea, through alluvial banks of gravel, sand, and clay, among which it frequently shifts its course, and injures the adjoining cultivated lands. Within a short distance from Forres, it is crossed on the line of the main post-road betwixt Aberdeen and Inverness by a very handsome and massive suspension-bridge, and two miles beyond it empties itself into a wide embouchure, or bay, from which its waters are again ushered through a narrow passage into the open sea at the port of Findhorn.—(See Route III. for a description of Forres and its neighbourhood.)

15. In order to complete the sketch of the Findhorn's course, now presented to our readers, we have only to advert a little more fully to a character of its waters, already hinted at, which is their great liability to sudden and extraordinary floods, called *speats*. The Findhorn is, perhaps, in this respect, the most dangerous river in Scotland. The frequent falls of its bridges, and the injuries done almost every year to the low grounds near its mouth, sufficiently attest this; while, in former days, the most distressing accidents were constantly occurring along its fords. Its great length, the mountainous character of the country through which it flows, and the narrowness of its rocky bed, are the causes of this sudden and dangerous rise of its waters. Many disastrous floods are on record; but several proofs concur in establishing, that the greatest of these, since the country was inhabited, occurred between the 2d and 4th of August, in the year 1829.

The previous summer had been a remarkably dry one, especially in Morayshire. An accumulation of vapours appears to have taken place to the north-east of the British Isles, and a storm of wind and rain, commencing at the Orkneys, seems to

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have been impelled across the Moray Firth, and to have discharged itself on the Cairngorm and Monaliagh mountains, the first high ground which it met. On the coast but few indications of the coming deluge were perceived, except vast columns of clouds hurrying to the southward. After these, however, were broken on the mountains, the whole atmosphere became surcharged with moisture, which descended in a small, penetrating rain, almost as fine as dew, but so continuous, that, at Huntly Lodge, where accurate observations were taken, in the course of twenty-four hours, 3¾ inches of rain fell; which, as compared with the average of all the years from 1821 to 1828 inclusive, is equal to one-sixth part of the whole annual allowance of rain for these years.

The loss of human life on this occasion was, on the whole, very inconsiderable; but the value and quantity of land destroyed, of houses overturned, and of valuable timber torn up by the roots, along the Findhorn and the other rivers affected by the flood, extending over a line of from 500 to 600 miles, exceeded all calculation. Some idea, however, of the awful effects produced by this impetuous torrent of water may be formed from the fact, that in the Findhorn (as related in the very interesting and complete account of the flood published by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder), it rolled along masses of rock of from six to eight tons' weight; that in the Streens it rose from fifteen to twenty-five feet above its ordinary level; forty feet at Dulsie Bridge; and at the more open space where the Farness Bridge stands, it overtopped the parapets twenty-seven feet above its usual bed. The height of the parapet of Daltulich Bridge, above the common line of the stream, is forty-four feet, of which the flood rose thirty-one feet; and at the gorge below, on the Relugas property, the water actually ascended over the very tops of the rocks, forty-six feet beyond its usual height, and inundated the level part of Rannoch-haugh, which lies over them, to the depth of four feet, *making a total perpendicular rise at this point of no less than fifty feet.* In the rapids of the Esses, on the Logie property, the flood also stood at this last-mentioned height; but below the estate of Sluie, the quantity of water was more easily ascertained by its destructiveness to the fields, mills, and other buildings along its banks, than by its depth. Of the beautiful bridge of Findhorn, near Forres, consisting of one arch of ninety-five feet, and two others of

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seventy-five feet span each, no trace was left but a fragment of the northern land-breast and part of the inclined approach from the south. All the salmon pools in the river were changed or filled up; and the water was so long impregnated with sand and mud, that the fish did not return for a long time in such numbers as they were wont to do.

But our limits forbid our pursuing this subject any farther.

ROUTE SECOND.—BRANCH F.

STRATHNAIRN AND STRATHERRICK.

Farr and Aberarder; Strathnairn, 1.—Stratherrick; Loch Farraline, 2.—Pass of Inverfarikaig; Dundarduil, 3.—Ballachernoch Road; Dunriachy, 4.

From the Bridge of Craggy, on the Perth road, six miles south of Inverness, a road (nineteen miles in length) has been formed by the Parliamentary Commissioners, proceeding westward through Strathnairn and Stratherrick, and joining the district road at Farraline. From Craggy, another district road, in an opposite direction, is continued down Strathnairn to Cawdor. (See Route III. A.)

On the upper line there is one small inn, or dram-house, at Farr, five miles up the strath; and another near Gortuleg, ten miles farther on; between which and the inn at Foyers there is another public house at Inverfarikaig, on Loch Ness side in one direction, and at Whitebridge, where the Foyers is crossed by the Fort-Augustus road, in another direction.

1. Strathnairn is a pastoral valley with a few patches of corn land, and is flanked by barren heathy mountains. Some clumps of alder and birch occasionally adorn the sides of the river, and follow its windings; but in general, there is rather a want of wood, except on the properties of Farr and Aberarder. A short way above the Craggy bridge an unusually great assemblage of gravel banks and terraces will be observed; and in fact, no river course in the Highlands is more distinctly marked with these indications than that of the Nairn, from its mouth upwards. In the more inland reaches of the river the valley widens considerably, and is but slightly inclined; and while the lower ridges and eminences have been rounded off by the cur-

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rents which anciently swept along the surface, the higher rocks and summits are sharp and rugged, shewing that they had stood above the flood or the passing glacier. This district is inhabited by an ancient race, members of the clan Chattan, the principal names being Mackintosh, Macbean, Macgillivray, and Macphail, many of whom, in the midst of the general changes of opinion around them, still retain a zealous and simple-minded attachment to the Episcopal Church of their forefathers. The proprietors are Colonel Mackintosh of Farr, — Sutherland of Aberarder, C. Mackintosh of Glenmazeran, and Macgillivray of Dunmaglass.

2. A short ascent from the top of Strathnairn leads into Stratherrick, which is a broad upland valley, lying between the hills which skirt the south side of Loch Ness and the Monaliagh mountains, bordering on Badenoch and Strathdearn. It is in general bleak and moorish, being composed, like the moor of Rannoch, of hard undecomposing granite, which shoots up occasionally in the form of bare undulating hillocks, giving the country a gray, cold, and dreary aspect. Near the bases of the hills on the southern boundary, are a series of long uninteresting tarns, or collections of water, which, with the exception of Loch Farraline, possess neither islands, wooded banks, nor precipitous rocks, to render them attractive; and which appear the more singular, as, after rising from the level of Loch Ness, one is apt to expect that he had left the region of lakes behind him. The eastern portion of Stratherrick (a contraction for Strath Farikaig) is the finest and best cultivated, but the whole district is now being greatly improved; and around the small lake of Farraline (sixteen miles from the Perth road) there are several extensive fir and larch plantations on the improved estates of Farraline, Balnain, Errogy, and Gortuleg. This strath is peopled by a numerous race of the clan Fraser, who acquired it in the fourteenth century from the Grants and Bissets. The road we are pursuing joins the Inverness and Fort-Augustus road between Whitebridge and the Fall of Foyers, passing Loch Garth and Boleskine church. (As to the beautiful scenery of Killin, on the river Foyers, see Route I. page 153.)

3. From Loch Farraline a road deflects towards Loch Ness (two and a half miles distant) through the pass of Inverfarikaig, than which there is none more picturesquely beautiful

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and wild in the Highlands. Woods of birch line the bottom and mantle the slopes of the deep ravine, from which a few groups and single trees extend along the face of the precipitous rocks above, waving their graceful twigs like flowery garlands along the mountain's brow. At the entrance of the pass from Loch Ness, the eastern side consists, for a considerable space, of a range of perpendicular and rugged precipices. As Loch Ness comes into view, the high and broad frontlet of the "Black Rock," surmounting an ample birch-clad acclivity, terminates the range of precipices, and on its summit we discern the green-clad walls of the ancient vitrified fortress of Dundarduil. We here join the road from Inverness to Fort-Augustus.

BALLACHERNOCH ROAD.

4. Besides the road now pointed out, there is another (fifteen miles long) from Inverness to Inverfarikaig and Farraline, which passes through a different portion of Stratherrick from that just described. It proceeds by Drummond (one mile west of Inverness), Torbreck, and Essich, over the ridge of Drumashie, and attains a great height above Loch Ness. Nearly opposite the end of this lake it passes a series of wild and black-looking lochs lying in the hollows of a moorish table-land; and beyond these it winds among some of the most barren and rocky hills of Stratherrick. At the west end of Loch Ruthven (one of these lakes, celebrated for its trout, and where the last shot was discharged for Prince Charles on the retreat from Culloden, sometimes called the battle of Drummossie Moor) there is a high detached conglomerate rock, on the summit of which is a stone structure called Dunriachy, "the stronghold of the ocean king," which appears to have been one of a chain of similar structures extending across the island, and which here seems to carry on the communication from the vitrified forts of Nairnshire and Craig Phadrick, to the valley of Urquhart and the shores of Loch Ness. The present fortress, though strongly walled round, is not vitrified. Soon after quitting it, the road branches into two, one part proceeding south through the central districts of Stratherrick, and joining the road already described between Abersky and Farraline; while the other branch keeps to the right hand and proceeds towards Loch Ness. It passes by Bochrubin and Leadclune, and a small hamlet called Ballacher-

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noch, where the first and a most magnificent view of Loch Ness, backed by Mealfourvounie and the Glen Moriston hills, bursts on our sight. The road then descends the hill opposite Dundarduil by means of a series of traverses cut among the rocks, and joins the Fort-Augustus road at Inverfarikaig. This last route is well worthy of the tourist's notice, were it only for the sake of the splendid burst of Loch Ness from the plateau above these traverses.

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SECTION VI.

ROUTE III.

ABERDEEN TO INVERNESS, BY SEA, AND THROUGH THE COUNTIES OF ABERDEEN, BANFF, ELGIN, AND NAIRN.

Approach by sea along the Moray Firth to Inverness and Northern Counties, 1.—Itinerary; Aberdeen; Bay and New Town, 2.—Old Aberdeen; Bridge of Don; Cathedral; King's College, 3.—Old Buildings; History and Trade of Aberdeen, 4. *Route through Buchan to Peterhead and Banff.*—Abbey of Old Deer, 5.—Peterhead; Bullers of Buchan; Slain's Castle, 6.—Cairnbulg and Inverallochy Castles, 7.—Fraserburgh, 8.—Kinnaird's Head and Light-House, 9.—Trouphead, 10.—Banff; Duff House, 11.—Portsoy; Minerals and Fossil Fish of Gamrie, 12.—Cullen and Cullen House, 13.—*Mid-road from Aberdeen to Banff by Old Meldrum.*—Haddo House; Fyvie Castle; Turriff, 14.—*Upper road from Aberdeen by Inverury and Huntly to Inverness.*—The Foudland Hills; Improvements; Foot Note.—*Detour by the Don.*—Kemnay; Monymusk; Kildrummie; Castle Fraser, 14*b*.—Huntly; Keith; Strathbogie, 15.—Fochabers; Gordon Castle, 16.—Entrance to Morayshire; the Spey, 17.—Elgin; Esplanade; Church of St. Giles; Streets and Public Buildings, 18.—Elgin Cathedral; Diocese of Moray; Burnings of the Cathedral; present appearance of the Town; its Museum, &c., 19.—Geology of Moray, Foot Note; Castle of Spynie; Pluscardine, 20.—Burgh-head; Covesea; Gordonstown, 21.—Plain of Moray; Proprietors; Distant View, 22.—*Sweno's Stone*, or Carved Pillar, 23. Abbey of Kinloss; Seaport of Findhorn; Coubin Sandhills, 24.—Forres; Clunie Hills; Drives along the Findhorn, 25.—Tarnaway Castle, 26.—Brodie; Dalvey, 27.—Nairnshire; the Hard Moor; Witches of Macbeth; Shakespere's blasted heath, 28.—Auldearn, Battle of; Burying Ground; Castle of Inchok, 29.—Nairn, 30.—Duke of Cumberland's Encampment at Balblair; Peat Mosses, 31.—Roads; Approach to the Highlands; Ancient Encampments; Campbelltown and Fort-George, 32, and Foot Note.—Dalcross Castle, 33. Castle Stewart; Culloden House; Tumuli; removal of land-mark, 34.—Druidical Circles, Foot Note; Splendid View and Arrival at Inverness, 35.—Lowlands and Highlands; Ancient Inhabitants, 36.

Conveyances.

Railway to Aberdeen (inquire for Time Tables at Station House, as the hours are frequently changed).

North Star Steamer from London to Inverness, and the Duke of Richmond, and Bonnie Dundee, and Isabella Napier, Steamers, from Leith, call off Aberdeen (see page 203).

	Leaves Aberdeen.	Arrives at Inverness.	Inside.	Outside.
Royal Mail Coach.....	—	—	£2	£1 : 1s.
Defiance (daily).....	6 A.M.	6½ P.M.	£2	£1 : 1s.

Duchess of Gordon between Aberdeen and Huntly every alternate day.

Earl of Fife, from Aberdeen, by Huntly, 7 A.M., 1 P.M. at Banff.

Earl of Fife and other coach leaves Banff at half-past 2 P.M. for Elgin, where it arrives at 7 P.M., and returns the next morning, starting from Elgin at 6 A.M.

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A daily mail runs between Aberdeen and Peterhead; and the Lord Lovat stage coach leaves Peterhead at 7 A.M., and reaches Banff at 12 noon, going back again the same day from Banff at half-past 2 P.M.

Distances.

			Miles.	Miles.
Aberdeen	Mid-Road	to Inverury	16	16
,,	,,	Pitmachie	9	25
,,	,,	Huntly	13	38
,,	,,	Keith	10	48
,,	,,	Fochabers	9	57
,,	,,	Elgin	9	66
,,	,,	Forres	12	78
,,	,,	Nairn	11	89
,,	,,	Inverness	18	107
			107	,,

(Upper Road.)

Aberdeen to	Old Meldrum	16	16
,,	Turriff	16	32
,,	Banff	11	43
,,	Portsoy	8	51
,,	Cullen	6	57
,,	Fochabers	12	69

Coast Road to Peterhead and Banff—

Aberdeen to	Ellon	16	16
,,	Cruden	9	25
,,	Peterhead	9	34
,,	Mintlaw	8	42
,,	Strichen	8	50
,,	Boe	10	60
,,	Banff	10	70

1. Very many of our readers will have reached Inverness, the Highland capital, from the south, either by the Perth and Athole road, or by steam from the south-west through the Caledonian Canal (as to which see Routes I. and II); or, they may arrive by sea from London or Leith, which, in summer especially, and during the busy season of the herring-fishery, when whole fleets of boats bestrew the ocean, is a common and pleasant way of attaining a central point whence to start in perambulating the north Highlands. Reference is previously made (p. 203) to the steam accommodations on the Moray Firth; and if the tourist should avail himself of these, he can at pleasure land at any of the ports on the south side of the Firth, or come on at once to Inverness, or go ashore at Cromarty or

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Invergordon, if his object be in the first place to explore the northern counties. If the weather be fine, the sail up the Moray Firth is exceedingly interesting and grand, though not so picturesque and varied as the west coast. Some of the headlands on the Aberdeen and Banff shores, after-mentioned, are quite magnificent; but after passing them, the Moray coast, though what is called an iron bound one, consists of low rocky ridges, with extensive flat sandy beaches, over which the Highland mountain screens are seen in dim and distant perspective. The Sutherland and Ross shire ranges, as they gradually come into view, present very varied and elegant forms; the outlines, especially of the chain which stretches inwards from the Ord of Caithness, and divides that county from Sutherland, being beautifully peaked. When once fairly quit of the rather dangerous headlands of the Aberdeen coast (on which the full fury of the ocean is, with a north-east wind, driven unbroken from the the Pentland Firth), and afloat on the more land-locked waters of the Moray Firth, the promontory of Burghhead, and the bluff Sutors of Cromarty, backed by the giant mountain of Ben Wyvis, soon come into view; while the round *dome-shaped* summit of Mealfourvounie attracts the eye in the far-off recesses of the Great Glen. The Stotfield, Tarbat Ness, Cromarty, and Fortrose lighthouses, as they come successively before him, impart a feeling of pleasing security to the voyager, and, at the same time, broad belts of cultivated ground and hanging woods appear to greet his approach to the Highland towns and villages, to which we shall afterwards more particularly introduce him. Let us return then to our itinerary.

2. The approach to Scotia's north-east capital by sea is not inviting. A bleak sandy coast, with long reefs and promontories of low rocks, having a few fishing villages scattered along it, and a tame uninteresting back-ground, hurry us on to Aberdeen —the city of "Bon Accord," the Oxford of Scotland, the "brave toun of Aberdeen." Immediately after passing the lighthouse on Girdleness we come upon the *bar*, crossing which, if the winds and waves permit, we enter the bay and find ourselves instantly involved among a vast quantity of boats and shipping, steaming our way to the harbours, over which rise the spacious *granite* built streets and houses of the New Town. They crown the north bank of the Dee; and after the traveller has refreshed himself at the

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"Royal," the "Union," the "Aberdeen," the "Lemon Tree," or "Mollisons," or secured apartments in some of the numerous private lodging-houses with which the city abounds, we advise him to sally forth and admire the spacious line of Union Street, about a mile in length; Union Bridge, a single arch of 132 feet span, over the Den Burn, one of the most perfect in the kingdom; the much admired Cross; Castle Street, at the east end of Union Street, forming the market-place, and encircled by some of the principal edifices, and ornamented by a granite statue of the last Duke of Gordon; Broad Street; King Street; the East, West, North, and South, and Grayfriar's Churches; the new Free Churches; large and elegant Assembly Rooms; Bridewell; Grammar School; the Banks; Jail; Court-House; Town-House; Episcopal Chapels; with the Infirmary; the very commodious and handsome New Markets, among the finest in the kingdom, and other public buildings; some of the principal works and manufactories; and especially the steam apparatus of Messrs. M'Donald and Leslie for polishing granite; with the harbours, the Inch, and the mouth of Dee. The streets and buildings of Aberdeen, being chiefly constructed of granite, have an unusually massive and durable appearance. The opening up of some of the new streets cost about £200,000; and the improvement of the harbour, which affords 5000 feet of wharfage, the large sum of £270,000. Marischal College, a square pile of buildings, entering from Broad Street, lately splendidly refitted, was founded by the noble family whose name it bears, in 1593, and is attended by nine professors, and about 300 students. It has a fine museum, library, and observatory, and a good collection of paintings, among which are some of the best productions of Jameson the Scottish Vandyke.

3. A walk of about a mile separates this bustling emporium of trade from the more classic retirements of Old Aberdeen. Should the tourist have made a detour along the beach, or entered from the north, he would first pass by the New Bridge of Don, within sight, however, of the old one, called the Brig of Balgownie, a beautiful Gothic arch of fifty-two feet span, and great strength, built by Bishop Cheyne, nephew to Cuming, Earl of Buchan, and competitor of the Bruce, and which is well known through Lord Byron's record of the popular prophetic stanza, of which his lordship and the late Lord Aberdeen both stood in awe.

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"Brig o' Balgownie, though wight be your wa',
Wi' a wife's ae son, and a mare's ae foal, down ye shall fa'."

The Don is here confined within a narrow rocky bed, and hence the top of the high "Brig," which is itself very narrow, appears to stand at a great altitude above the salmon pool below. Entering the *Old* Town of Aberdeen, on the south bank of the Don, we pass first the venerable parish church of Old Machar, which is only the nave of the ancient cathedral, the other portions of which yielded to the fury of the mob at the Reformation, and to the more fiery and wicked zeal of Cromwell's soldiers, who, as usual with them, removed the stones to build a garrison for the future subjection of their then Scottish friends. The structure is still a noble one (more massive, however, than elegant), and is kept in high preservation; and its large western window of seven high lancet lights, and oak ceiling, painted with armorial bearings, are much admired. The pillars of the transept have their capitals beautifully carved with oak and vine leaves; the columns and windows being otherwise plain, and in the severe early English style. There are several sculptured tombs and remains of brasses, with many modern additions in debased Gothic, and all in bad taste. Next, we pass on to King's College, the fine tower of which, highly ornamented and formed into an imperial crown, early attracts attention. It was founded in 1494 by Bishop Elphinstone, and subsequently taken under royal protection. The buildings occupy the sides of a large quadrangle, and, with their chapel, have all been recently renewed, though the new parts harmonize but ill with the old. All the old buildings are of *granite*, with round-headed or severe sharp early English arches, while the restored parts have polished *freestone* fronts, with florid *perpendicular* windows. Within the chapel and examination hall, the ancient carved benches and oak roofs have been sadly interfered with by modernized seats, and pulpits, and stucco! The walls exhibit a fine collection of portraits of the old Scottish kings and early principals of the college, including one of the founder, Bishop Elphinstone. About 250 students attend, habited in red gowns; and, besides the assistance of ten able professors, they, and the students of Marischal College in the new town, have access to a splendid library, of an old foundation, and which is now furnished with a free copy of every book entered in Stationer's Hall. Many of Scotland's best and

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greatest sons were alumni of King's College; and every Highland heart especially must warm at the sight of those towers under which his poor but ardent and enterprising countrymen have, in thousands, drunk of the fountains of Divine and human knowledge, whereby, in all quarters of the globe, they have risen to respectability, fame, and opulence. Young men, from the most remote parts of the Highlands and Hebrides, still press on, every autumn, for King's College; and before steamers and coaches were known, they all had to travel on foot, and many of them depended for their subsistence afterwards on obtaining one or other of the numerous *Bursaries*, or presentations (varying from £5 to £20 and £50), which are competed for at the opening of each winter's session. It was an amusement, and a grateful one too, of the late Duke of Gordon, to send out his carriages, when the poor Highland lads were on their way to or from College, to give them a *lift* for a stage or two; and the writers of these pages have known young men who wrought in summer as operatives at the Caledonian Canal, who have thus had a ride in the kind and hearty nobleman's carriage, and perhaps an hour's chat with the "brave and manly spirit" which beat in the breast of "the last of the Dukes of Gordon."

4. Mar's Castle, and several old courts, streets, and closes in the "*auld* town," are worthy of examination; and the stranger will not fail to remark the quaint antique character of the whole place as contrasted with the business-like magnitude and pretension of the buildings in the New Town. He will also be struck with the number of gardens in and around Aberdeen, and especially with the vast quantities of the new and finest *strawberries* grown in them. The climate is severe and intensely cold, but in summer the air here is bracing, and the sea-bathing (with the use of hot and cold salt-water baths) remarkably good and convenient.

Aberdeen is of a very high antiquity, being known as the abode of a collection of people since the third century, and supposed to be the *Devana* of the *Itinerarium Antonini;* and it was certainly a privileged burgh since the ninth. Its earliest charter extant, however, is one of the twelfth century by William the Lion. "It is the place where commerce first took its rise in Scotland, or rather where commerce may be said to have disembarked from other countries into this. Long before

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Edinburgh was anything (as remarked by Mr. Chambers) but the insignificant hamlet attached to a fortress, and while the germ of the mercantile character as yet slept at Glasgow in the matrix of an Episcopal city, Aberdeen was a flourishing port, and the seat of a set of active and prosperous merchants;" and is still the third principal port of North Britain. The bishoprick of Aberdeen was founded in 1137 by David I., who transferred the see from Mortlach in Banffshire, where a religious house had been erected in 1010 by Malcolm II., soon after his great victory over the Danes, and where a bishop had subsequently resided. Many of the succeeding bishops were distinguished for their learning, piety, and public spirit; and the inhabitants of the city, and their magistrates, have at all times been noted for their sufferings in all the civil and religious contentions of the times, from Edward I. down to Montrose, and the "*fifteen*" and "*forty-five*," and for their readiness to protect their liberties and avenge their quarrels. Sir Robert Davidson, provost of Aberdeen, contributed much, along with the Earl of Mar, to the defeat of Donald of the Isles, at the great battle of Harlaw in 1411; and his monument, surmounted by a statue, is still preserved in the church of St. Nicholas. There were four convents in the city; but the inhabitants early embraced the revival of primitive truth at the Reformation; and there have always been two strong and rival parties here—the Presbyterian and Episcopalian; though now, happily, they live on the best terms with one another.

Prior to 1745, the principal manufacture of Aberdeen was the knitting of stockings and coarse woollen stuffs: now it is celebrated not only for these, but also for its linen, hemp, cotton, paper, leather, and carpet manufactories; for its porter breweries, distilleries, ironworks, shipbuilding; and its exports of salmon, farm and dairy produce, and granite blocks, of which about 20,000 tons are sent away annually. The population of both towns approaches 70,000; and the shipping exceeds 30,000 tons. Harbour dues are annually paid on about 200,000 tons. There are three local banks—all of them highly prosperous. There are also two Aberdeen Fire and Life Insurance Companies. Although the bay of Aberdeen is rough and exposed, and the bar in front of the harbour dangerous—so that the citizens have frequently been subjected to witness shipwrecks, without the power of affording any relief—yet the trade is most extensive,

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and the communication with all parts of the world frequent; and here our readers from the south will find steamers prepared to start for Inverness, and the ports of the Moray Firth; in summer, once a-week for Wick, Kirkwall in Orkney, and Lerwick in Shetland; while with Leith there is daily intercourse; and with London at least twice a-week by steam, making the voyage in sixty hours. Altogether, Aberdeen is a very fine and flourishing city, and the "canny Aberdonians" at once enterprising and careful, and thus eminently money-making. Their south railway, just opened, we trust will add to their wealth, and reward the enterprise which originated it.

ROUTE THROUGH BUCHAN TO PETERHEAD AND BANFF.

5. The tourist bound for the northern counties, unless he take time to explore the courses of the Dee and Don, will not find much in the undulating and highly cultivated plains of Aberdeenshire, though not without many spots of great beauty, to detain him; and he will probably cut short his route by proceeding directly by Huntly and Keith to the Spey at Fochabers. But should business call him to the district of Buchan and Peterhead, he will either proceed by sea or keep along the coast road, or take the middle one by Ellon, Mintlaw, and Strichen. The latter in days of yore had the best made road, and it has been rendered classical by the "Tour" of Dr. Johnson. On the first part of it the Doctor remarked, that "I have now travelled two hundred miles in Scotland, and seen only one tree not younger than myself," so that, at Strichen, he rejoiced to meet "some forest trees of full growth;" but the sage seemed equally surprised at the ancient towns of Scotland, "which have generally an appearance unusual to Englishmen—the houses, whether small or great, being, for the most part, built of *stones!*" At Ellon, Pitfour, and Strichen, and along Lord Aberdeen's estates, he would now find whole forests of planted wood; and, what would have equally delighted the Doctor, numerous Episcopal chapels—that at Longside, near Mintlaw, in particular, accommodating perhaps the largest country congregation in Scotland, of which nearly 600 are communicants, and which is farther celebrated as having been the *cure* of the Rev. John Skinner, author of the Ecclesiastical History of Scotland, of several poems and songs of considerable merit—such as "Tullochgorum," and

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the "Ewie wi' the crooked horn"—and who was the father of the late, and grandfather of the present Bishop Skinner—both Primates of the Episcopal Church in Scotland. At no great distance from this chapel stood the once renowned Abbey of Old Deer, built in the beginning of the thirteenth century by one of the Cumings, Earls of Buchan, for monks of the Cistertian order. It has been razed almost to its foundations, and the grounds have been enclosed within an extensive orchard, by the proprietor, Mr. Ferguson of Pitfour.

6. The coast road has nothing in point of beauty to recommend it—extensive sands and low rocks accompanying us all the way to Peterhead. Here, on the most easterly promontory of Scotland, and opposite that of Buchan Ness, which is distinguished by its elegant lighthouse, stands the bustling and important seaport of Peterhead, the commodious and extensive bay and harbours of which annually save many a seaman from a watery grave. It is remarkable for the great commercial enterprise of the inhabitants in the whale and domestic fisheries, and is the nursery of the boldest and most scientific mariners; while the most wonderful acuteness and activity have been exhibited by the people in every detail of trade. It is a burgh of barony, holding of the Merchant Maiden Hospital of Edinburgh, who acquired the superiority by purchase from an English company, who bought it from the Crown, on the forfeiture of the Earl Marischal; to whose protection the Chevalier St. George intrusted himself on his landing here in 1715. The neighbouring bay exhibits a perfect *chevaux-de-frize* of needle-shaped granite rocks, jutting up in all directions; and of this stone, which is of a beautiful flesh colour, the houses of the town are erected; and a considerable quantity is exported for building-blocks, and polished slabs for chimney-pieces and monuments. Peterhead was once much resorted to in summer for sea-bathing, and for the waters of its celebrated sparkling mineral well; and it is a common feat for the valetudinarians to visit the Bullers (or Boilers) of Buchan, about six miles distant on the southern coast, but which, if the weather be rough, can also be approached from the shore. They consist of an immense cauldron, or pot, fifty feet wide, hollowed out by the waves, and the rock is arched beneath, so as to admit the entrance of a boat; but which can also be looked down upon from the lip above. The general height of the cliffs is fully 200 feet; and they are

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perforated on all hands by deep caves and recesses, along which a tremendous surge constantly rolls. Dr. Johnson quaintly describes the Buller as "a rock perpendicularly tubulated;" and alluding to the narrow ledge at the top, which appeared "very narrow," he gravely assures his readers that his party "went round, however, and we were glad when the circuit was completed!" Hard by, Slain's Castle, the seat of the Earl of Errol, a spacious quadrangular edifice, stands on the edge of a crag, as wild as that of the Buller: and the castle wall seems only to be the continuation of a perpendicular rock, the foot of which is beaten by the waves. The Earl's next neighbour, on the north-east, is the King of Denmark, whose subjects, it is said, claim a right of sepulture in the adjoining "kirk-yard," which they periodically visit to renew the grave stones of their departed brethren, who are so often drowned on this fearful coast; and so desolating is the sea-breeze, as to prevent Slain's Castle from being adorned by a single tree, "a characteristic (as remarked by Mr. Chambers) in which, as the residence of a Scottish nobleman, it is happily singular."

Proceeding onwards to Fraserburgh (eighteen miles from Peterhead) the tourist will take a passing glance of Inverugie Castle, which was the ancient seat of the Earls Marischal, and was occupied till the attainder of the family for their joining in the Rebellion of 1715. Here was born Field-marshal Keith, brother of the last earl, who, after the affair of Sheriffmuir, went abroad, and attained the highest fame and honours in the service of Peter the Great and King Frederick of Prussia.

7. The roads now deflect inward from the coast, to avoid the sandy beaches, which here extend a great way along the shore; the country also being bare, tame, and uninteresting, but abounding in herds of the finest cattle, and celebrated for its superior *butter* and *cheese*. But Cairnbulg Castle (two miles off), though a mere heap of ruins, is conspicuous at a distance, from the flatness of the country. It lies near Philorth, the residence of Lord Saltoun. Inverallochy Castle, which next comes in view, stands near the very dangerous promontory of Ratteray Head, on which, as yet, there is no lighthouse, and from which a reef of very fearful rocks runs out, which are partially covered at high water, and are, hence, often the more fatal to shipping.

8. Fraserburgh, strange offshoot of a Highland clan, is a

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burgh of regality, of which Lord Saltoun is superior and perpetual Provost, which was founded in the middle of the sixteenth century, along a fine bay and safe road-stead, by Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth. In 1592 he obtained a royal charter for the institution of a University here; but the design was never carried farther than the erection of a square tower of three storeys for one of the Colleges; and in which, and at Peterhead, the students of Aberdeen were taught one season (1647), when that city was infested with the plague. The beautiful stone-cross, surmounting an hexagonal structure (adorned by the British and Philorth arms), which was erected by the founder, is still entire; and the adjoining magnificent harbour, constructed partly at the expense of Government and partly by subscription, cost about £50,000. It has rendered Fraserburgh a retreat to vessels of war, as well as merchantmen, in stormy weather; and hence, the town has become wealthy, stirring, and populous. The adjoining district has, ever since the Reformation, been a stronghold of Episcopacy; and the town was long the residence of the late venerable and learned Bishop Jolly, whose piety united the strictness and self-denial of an ancient monk or hermit to the simplicity of primitive times, and the cheerfulness and activity of the best Protestant divines.

9. Kinnaird's head and lighthouse lie a mile north of Fraserburgh, and rough and uninviting though the approach in all directions to this promontory is, the scenery partakes much of the sublime,—for the far off hills and headlands of Sutherland and Caithness stretch away in dark undefinable masses over the blue waves, which roll in wide expanse between; while near at hand huge detached blocks of rock jut out upon the waste of waters, as if to meet the lashings of the Pentland tides which dash full tilt, and are broken upon them. Here and there grim old eyry-like fortresses, the giant guardians of the land, frown out upon the sea; and in some places a recess of yellow beach, where perhaps some fleet of Norsemen had formerly stranded, and found a sandy grave.

10. The tourist is now twenty-one miles distant from Banff, a space which is divided into two stages by the excellent inn at Troup, the patrimonial property of Lord Gardenstone, and where he should visit Troup Head, which presents a breastwork of old red sandstone precipices several hundred feet high, and nearly

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three miles in extent, to the waves. There are no other eminences to be seen, saving the hill of Mormond, eight miles inland from Fraserburgh ; and though only 800 feet high, it is conspicuous for at least forty miles all round. The flatness and want of trees bestow an imposing altitude even on the stone walls or dykes and cottages.

11. The neat and cheerful town of Banff (which can boast of a large and excellent hotel), on a gently sloping hill side, and the fisher town of Macduff, connected with it by a handsome bridge over the Deveron, should both be examined before proceeding to Duff House, though in the first there is scarcely a house remaining to indicate its very high antiquity. It is known to have been a residence of Malcolm IV., called the Maiden, most probably while engaged in exterminating the ancient inhabitants of Moray (1160), and whose charters are sometimes dated from Banff; and it is not clear but that his predecessor, Malcolm Caenmore, also resided here. Banff Castle was a constabulary or royal one, held for the crown—was the head of a small thanedom—and, like the similar fortresses of Cullen, Elgin, Forres, Nairn, and Inverness, was the king's residence when visiting his dominions, and the abode of his sheriffs or constables, and the place of administering justice in his absence. Randolph, Earl of Moray, appears to have got the thanedom of the Boyne from Robert the Bruce, by whom also the liberties of the burgh were renewed and confirmed. Subsequently it became the county town, and Banff Castle was declared the messuage of the earldom of Buchan, on the marriage of Margaret Ogilvie of Auchter House with James Stuart, Earl of Buchan, and brother of King James II., the Earl being then appointed hereditary thane or constable, an office which afterwards was resigned to the Findlater family, and by them exercised till the abolition of heritable jurisdictions. Pecuniary embarrassments caused the Earl of Buchan to part with the castle to Robert Sharp, sheriff-clerk of Banff, elder brother of the celebrated and unfortunate Archbishop Sharp, who was born there in 1613, and on whose murder, in 1679, his brother, Sir William Sharp of Stonyhill, took up the property. The archbishop's father previously held the castle in feu.

In Banff there was a large monastery of the Carmelites, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and supposed to have been coeval with the royalty. At the Reformation, the friars made

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over their possessions to Sir Walter Ogilvie; but these, along with the superiority and feu-duties, which were gifted by James VI. to King's College, Aberdeen, have all been bought up by Lord Fife. The Knights Templars, also, had an hospital here, long distinguished by their usual mark, an iron cross, on the top. Like all the Scottish towns of any consequence, the free traders, and wealthy burghers of Banff, were, in ancient times, continually harassed by the exactions and cupidity of the feudal aristocracy of the neighbourhood; and even such great nobles as the Duke of Gordon and the Marquis of Montrose, disdained not occasionally to *mulct* the citizens in *loans* which were never intended to be repaid, but which could not be refused. According to the last very able Statistical Report of the parish, it would appear that Banff is not now a "thriving place,"—neither increasing in size nor population (which amounts to about 3000 souls), though it has the advantage of excellent schools, abundant markets, numerous places of worship, literary institutions, and good society. The modern suburb of Macduff, which is provided with a better harbour, and lies more conveniently for trade, threatens to attract the young and adventurous part of the community to itself; while the domains of two great landed proprietors, hemming in the burgh on all sides, necessarily prevent its spreading itself out into new streets or ornamental villas.

But the chief object of interest about Banff is Duff House, which was erected about ninety years ago by William, Lord Draco, after a purely Tuscan design, by Adams, at an expense of £70,000. It was never fully completed, the large quadrangular central part without the wings being alone executed, and though rich and graceful in detail, the structure is not imposing when viewed at a distance. The interior is perfectly "*Louverized*" with pictures,—all remarkably interesting, and with many first-rate works of art, "at which criticism may vainly level her eye-glass." The walls are quite crowded with productions of Titian, Corregio, Murillo, Vandyke, Cuyp, Jameson, Sir Peter Lely, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Raeburn, and many others, both of the past and present day; and the collection is particularly rich in portraits of distinguished personages; but not the least interesting of the curiosities is the ponderous sword of the famous *outlaw* Macpherson, who was seized, after a desperate resistance, by the Laird of Braco (ancestor of the Earl of

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Fife), and some of his followers, at a fair at Keith; and was tried and condemned, along with three of his accomplices, by the *Sheriff* of Banff, in November 1700, as "known holden and repute Egiptians and vagabonds, and oppressors of his Majesty's free lieges, and as thieves and receptors of theives *pessima fama*." The records of the trial are amusing and instructive: "three young rogues in prison" having, at the same time, had substantial, though perhaps not formal, justice administered to them, in having their "ears cropped, burnt on the cheek, and publickly scourged" through the town of Banff; but though all were found guilty, Macpherson alone was executed, two of the other culprits having been *repledged* as vassals of the Laird of Grant, and probably saved as subject to his jurisdiction. Macpherson, who was an excellent musician, is said to have composed his own beautiful *Lament and Pibroch*, and to have played them "under the gallow's tree." He then offered his Cremona violin to any one in the crowd who would receive it as a remembrance of him, and the gift being declined, he broke it, and threw the fragments into the grave prepared for his body.

12. At Portsoy (8 miles from Banff), the most conspicuous object in which is a new and neat Episcopal chapel, the tourist will find a perfect mineralogical world,—an epitome of the science; and choice polished specimens may be purchased of Mr. Clark, a local lapidary. The district abounds with the greatest variety of granite, quartz rock, and all the usual primary rocks, with large beds of beautiful marble and serpentine, and quantities of crystals of garnets, Labrador felspar, Hyperstene, Tourmaline, Hornblende, and Bronzite, with asbestus, tremolite, actynolite, and many of the allied magnesian minerals. The marble and serpentine beds have only been occasionally employed for chimney-pieces, vases, and small ornaments; but if extensively worked, and opened up, we feel confident that the purity and variety of the colours would command a ready market, especially if the serpentine was exhibited in large and highly-polished slabs. Professor Jameson, in his mineralogical travels, was the first to describe this extremely interesting neighbourhood.

Cultivation and woodland here abound, where not many years ago the whole country was a wide wilderness of bog. The Earl of Fife, the principal proprietor, has long devoted himself to the personal superintendence of those vast improve-

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ments; and three hundred persons, it is said, are constantly employed about the grounds of Duff House alone. The rough and wild scenery occasioned by the primitive rocks which compose the great mass of the country, and which in the Buchan district, to the eastward, project into the sea in rude and dangerous reefs and headlands, here give way occasionally to smoother ridges and promontories of red sandstone and its associated conglomerate, which diversify and soften the outlines, and which are the remains of the great sandstone basin now filled only by the heaving waters of the Moray Firth, but which, in an ancient state of things, was so extensive, that we can identify the remote sandstone ridges at Tomintoul abutting against the granite of the Grampians, as parts of them. In Gamrie Bay, on the south side of the great conglomerate mass of Troup Head, nodules of a subcrystalline, fibrous, and radiating structure, occur in a bed of bituminous clay, each enclosing an organic remain (generally a coccosteus); and these organisms, after many guesses and speculations, have been found to belong to the petrifactions of the old red sandstone formation, and to be connected with the similar fish-beds which stretch along the country past Dipple, Rothes, Scatscraig, Clunie, Lethan Bar, Cawdor, Culloden Moor, and Inverness, round to Cromarty, Caithness, and Orkney. To complete our glance at this most interesting geological district, we have to add, that *flint* nodules, and other traces of the chalk formation, as well as of the inferior lias and oolite, are found on the surface and in the tertiary deposits of Banff and Aberdeen shires; but whence they have come has not yet been properly ascertained.

13. A drive of six miles lands us opposite the three rocky kings in the bay, at the sumptuous hotel and three towns of Cullen, of which the neat houses of the more modern portion, strongly contrast with the habitations of the humble fisher town. In the midst rises an eminence on which a large fortress once stood, where Elizabeth, the wife of Robert Bruce, breathed her last. The dense woods behind environ Cullen House, the low country residence of the Earl of Seafield, chief of the clan Grant, built on the edge of a deep rocky burn course, and which is almost buried in them, and is screened from view by the sides of the narrow dell or valley in which it lies, but which is worthy of a visit, not only as one of the most princely and wealthy mansions in the north, but as containing, as has been remarked,

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"several battalions of pictures, both foreign and domestic," of great interest and value. The historical and family paintings are chiefly deserving of attention; and of the former, one of the finest is of James VI. by Mytens, which was rescued at the great revolution by the Earl of Findlater, then Chancellor of Scotland, from a mob who had torn it off the walls of Holyrood-house; a portrait of James, Duke of Hamilton, who was beheaded in 1649, by Vandyke, and another of the admirable Crichton. The woods and policies lead up to the top of the Bein Hill, a prominent hill fort, which, with the Durn-Hill behind Portsoy (which is formed of the most beautiful slaty quartz rock), having three entrenchments round it, constituted the first links of the great chain of signal stations (many of them vitrified) which stretch inland towards the sources of the Don and Dee, and westwards around the coasts of the Moray Firth. Dunidich on the shore side, and numerous cairns and stones of memorial along the district, attest the frequent struggles of the natives with the Danes and other Northmen. The church of Cullen is an interesting old fabric, and contains a fine canopied tomb, but the history of which is unknown. The ruins of Findlater Castle and of Boyne Castle below the road as we approach from the east, are interesting objects. Both belonged to the old family of the Ogilvys, Earls of Findlater. From Cullen a pleasing drive of twelve miles through a fine corn country, and latterly through dense fir woods, leads us past the great estuary of the Spey to Fochabers, which we shall afterwards notice when we have brought on the itinerary by the middle and upper or great north road from Aberdeen.

MID-ROAD FROM ABERDEEN TO BANFF, BY OLD MELDRUM AND TURRIFF.

14. This route for some miles adheres to the Vale of the Don, and then passes into that of the sluggish Ythan. The country naturally is bleak and uninteresting, but its broad undulating surface, which, intermediate between the different river courses, is an aggregation of wide, somewhat saucer-shaped elevations and hollows, locally designated as "*heights* and *hows*," is now becoming highly cultivated. The staple cereal, however, in Aberdeen and Banff shires, is oats; and there is comparatively little wheat grown. In the first stage, the most

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conspicuous eminence is that of Benochie, the high and truncated summit of which is a noted landmark to all vessels making this coast. The burgh of barony of Old Meldrum, a village chiefly of artizans and labourers, has nothing to detain the stranger; but it overlooks a great expanse of fertile land to the west, called Chapel of Garioch. By diverging from the turnpike road, at Old Meldrum, to Methlick, on the Ythan, and thence along its course, rejoining the high road to Turriff, near Fyvie Castle, Haddo House, the seat of the Earl of Aberdeen, can be numbered among the tourist's reminiscences. It is a substantial square structure, with wings advancing in front at either extremity, and set down amid a wide expanse of undulating and well-wooded park-ground, and contains a good collection of paintings, including several of Lawrence's masterpieces. The banks flanking the Ythan rise steeply, and are well wooded, and the scenery very pleasing within the vale itself, and when regaining the higher ground, the eye courses over more expanded sections of the winding and deeply-imbedded stream. It dwindles to the size of a mere brook as it curls round the pleasure-grounds of Fyvie Castle—laid out like an English park, half-way between Old Meldrum and Turriff—and is there still and sedgy. As remarked by Mr. Billings, Castle Fyvie was originally a very old keep, but added to and ornamented by Chancellor Seton, afterwards Lord Fyvie and Earl of Dunfermline.—"There is no such edifice in England. It is, indeed, one of the noblest and most beautiful specimens of that rich architecture which the Scottish barons of the days of King James VI. obtained from France. Its three princely towers, with their luxuriant coronet of coned turrets, sharp gables, tall roofs and chimneys, canopied dormer windows, and rude statuary, present a sky-outline at once graceful, rich, and massive, and in these qualities exceeding even the far-famed Glammis. The form of the central tower is peculiar and striking; it consists, in appearance, (in front, *i. e.*) of two semi-round towers, with a deep curtain between them, retired within a round-arched recess of peculiar height and depth. The minor departments of the building are profusely decorated with mouldings, crockets, canopies, and statuary. The interior is in the same fine keeping with the exterior. The great staircase is an architectural triumph, such as few Scottish mansions can exhibit; and it is so broad and so gently graduated, as to justify a traditional

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boast, that the laird's horse used to ascend it." The three towers are in a line, with high roofs, and not battlemented, and of uniform height, and square, with the variation alluded to. The ample staircase winds under a succession of massive archways at right angles to each other, and is vaulted overhead; and the outer gateway and lodge—a large square structure, with a high conical turret at each corner, and completely enveloped in ivy—forms a remarkably fine outwork in keeping with the castle itself. Here, also, are several valuable paintings. Aberdeenshire is rich in these fine old castles; and in this neighbourhood, the tourist should see those of Gight and Tolquhon, though they are much inferior to Castle Fyvie and to Castle Fraser, and others mentioned as occurring along the course of the Don. As it nears Turriff, the road passes the house and grounds of Hatten (Duff).

Turriff is a thriving manufacturing village, with fine bleachfields, and overlooking the Vale of the Deveron. It claims a high antiquity, and is known to have had an almshouse or hospital, erected by the Earl of Buchan in 1272, which was afterwards enlarged by Robert Bruce. The Knights Templars also had lands here; and the present buildings of the town most worthy of notice are, a handsome parish church, a venerable old disused one, and an Episcopal chapel. Thence to Banff, the banks of the Deveron exhibit a deal of fine woodland and river scenery, especially opposite Forglen House, near Turriff, and again at the Bridge of Alva, and thence through the policies of Duff House; but, generally, the country away from the river's side, and along the public road, is bleak and cold, though well cultivated. The road passes at a short distance from Dalgetty Castle, (James Duff, Esq., M.P. for Banffshire,) another and a very interesting specimen of the old Tower, embellished with French additions, and where the old family chapel is still preserved.

It will be apparent, that the round by Turriff and Banff to Fochabers, gives opportunity of seeing a succession of mansions, each well worthy of a visit—Haddo House, Fyvie Castle, Duff House, and Cullen House, in addition to Gordon Castle—besides presenting a specimen of the coast scenery, as well as of the central districts of that part of the country.

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THE UPPER OR GREAT NORTH ROAD BY HUNTLY TO INVERNESS.

14 *b.* The traveller by coach is usually surprised to find himself accompanied side by side for the first stage out to Inverury (16 miles), by the *track-boats* of an inland canal which was formed chiefly for the transit of merchandise, and the export of the great quantities of corn raised in the interior valleys of Aberdeenshire, and of the slates and limestones of the adjoining hills. Passing Kintore, Inverury, and other thriving villages, the road then proceeds through an upland moorish country, winding among a succession of undulating shapeless hills, the passes through which, especially in the Foudland Hills, south of Huntly, are often in winter for a considerable period blocked up with snow.

The hill sides, however, are now being extensively planted with forest trees, to increase the shelter and ameliorate the climate; and here, as well as along the coast, most noble and extraordinary efforts have been made to reclaim and improve the ground. In no part of Scotland have greater industry and skill been exhibited, or more capital invested in agricultural pursuits, than in this quarter, and that with a soil naturally wet and cold, and a climate by no means propitious.* Though now possessed by a race of Flemish or Saxon origin, and speaking a dialect of the lowland Scotch, peculiarly broad, where *Gaelic* is never heard except in the more inland glens, Banff and Aberdeen shires anciently composed a great Celtic territory under the dominion of the Earls (previously the Maormors) of Mar and Buchan, in which the names of places still point out the Celtic character of the first inhabitants. Hence, apart from the outline of the country, we might not inappropriately consider these two counties as Highland, though Scotchmen in general rank them as belonging to the *Lowlands*.†

* The district about Huntly and Keith abounds in primitive limestone and slate, which have largely contributed to local improvements.

† Instead of proceeding the length of Inverury, and following the course of the Ury and the direct road to Huntly, a very agreeable detour may be made by striking across from near Kintore, so as to regain the Don near Kemnay (distinguished for an excellent school, and a schoolhouse and grounds, which are a marvel for spruceness) —following its course to Monymusk, thence by Alford to Kildrummie; and there diverging northwards, by Clova and Strathbogie, to Huntly. Some of the reaches of the Don, as at Fetternear and Monymusk—the Paradise near it—and Castle Forbes, a showy modern castellated building, which may be reached at some sacrifice, as the turnpike road does not follow the river here, are exquisitely sweet and beautiful. The river is lined by soft and moderate-sized eminences, highly wooded, while the low grounds are well cultivated. Kildrummie Castle, which repeatedly figures in

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15. Huntly and Keith, the two principal inland towns on this road, owe their prosperity chiefly to their localities being well adapted for bleachfields, and the manufacture of linen and woollen stuffs. The latter, or rather the new town of Keith, was founded in 1750, on a barren moor upon the Isla Water, by James, father of the last Ogilvy, Earl of Findlater, whose title and estates have now passed into the family of Grant of Grant, Earls of Seafield. Huntly stands on a dry and pleasant bank at the confluence of the Bogie with the Deveron, and consists chiefly of two principal streets crossing each other at right angles, and forming a spacious square or market-place. Near it on the banks of the Deveron, is the elegant residence of Huntly Lodge, the jointure-house of her Grace the Duchess of Gordon; and hard by, the ruins of the old castle of Huntly, the ancient seat of the Duke of Gordon's eldest son while Marquis of Huntly, and which is a structure with peculiar features, and far more imposing, when examined in detail, than it seems to be at a distance.

Scottish history, is a bulky and imposing structure, now a mere shell, however, on an elevated recess overlooking Strathdon. The Burn of Clova presents a fine wooded dell, and the Clova hills are a fruitful botanical *habitat*. In Strathbogie, which descends to Huntly, the first throes were experienced of that great convulsion which has rent asunder the Church of Scotland. But one of the chief recommendations of this route is, that between Kemnay and Monymusk, it leads within little more than a mile of Castle Fraser (Colonel Fraser), which, and Fyvie Castle, already described, form the finest architectural ornaments of Aberdeenshire. The following is the description in Messrs. Billings and Burns' Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities:—"It may be considered as standing in competition with Fyvie Castle for supremacy among the many French turreted mansions of the north. While its rival rests supreme in symmetrical compactness, Castle Fraser is conspicuous for the rich variety of its main features, and its long, rambling, irregular masses. Descending to minute details—while Fyvie is remarkable for its grotesque statuary, Castle Fraser has a more abundant richness of moulding and carved decoration. The quantity of tympanumed dormer windows, and the variety of decorations with which they are enriched, give much character and effect to the building. There is one small feature, taken from France, seldom exemplified in the turreted mansions of the north, yet of which there are a few specimens in edifices otherwise meagre—this is the light, lofty turret, with an ogee or pavilion-shaped, instead of a conical roof, and airy-looking tiers of small windows, perched in the recess where the round tower joins the central square mass. Of that mass, the upper will be seen to be of very different character from the lower architectural department, which probably was the unadorned square tower of the fifteenth century. The dates, which appear on the more modern and ornamental portions, point to the time when the turreted style had reached its highest development in Scotland—1617 and 1618."

The central square mass above alluded to, with the roof springing from a more decorated superstructure, has a lofty round tower of six storeys overtopping the roof on one flank, occupying the fore half of that side, and a higher slender turret, perched, as described, in the front junction; while, on the opposite side, the main building is embraced by another square tower, retreating back, uniform with itself, and which leaves the fore portion of that side of the central tower free. The main building is thus more massive than Fyvie. Two ranges of lower buildings extend behind, each terminating in a conical-roofed tower. All the angles of the whole structure are surmounted by high similar shaped turrets, and the effect of the whole is admirable.

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Aberdeenshire is traversed by a number of fine rivers of various character, giving rise to much diversified scenery, and to many rich alluvial plains or straths, along their banks. In the maritime and more easterly portions of Banff and Aberdeen shires, Episcopacy has ever retained a strong footing, her congregations being numerous, embracing both rich and poor; while a considerable portion of the population are also Roman Catholics, especially in the district of the Enzie, in Banffshire. About the city of Aberdeen, and towards the north-west, Presbyterianism early obtained the ascendancy.

16. A short but rapid descent of nine miles from Keith terminates at Fochabers, a little town which stands at the distance of a few hundred yards from the east bank of the river Spey, on an elevated gravel terrace; and Gordon Castle, now the seat of his Grace the Duke of Richmond, about a mile to the north, on a lower one. The town forms a regular parallelogram, the sides of which are composed chiefly of thatched cottages. A square, surrounded by respectable houses, occupies the centre; from the east and west sides of which straight streets of similar buildings proceed, and the town is traversed by two parallel and cross lanes of houses. On one side of the square there is a porticoed church, surmounted by a neat spire; and on the south side of the town, a Roman Catholic chapel, remarkable for its handsome and tasteful front, has been lately erected. A Scotch Episcopal chapel has also been recently added. The population of Fochabers is about 900. It contains an excellent hotel, about seventy slated houses, and thrice that number of thatched cottages. A munificent educational fund has lately accrued to the place, through the bequest of a townsman, Alexander Mylne, merchant of New Orleans, whose institution has been erected at the eastern approach.

Gordon Castle, the north-country residence of the Duke of Richmond, formerly the seat of the ducal family of Gordon, is a magnificent structure, consisting of a large central building of four storeys, with spacious two-storeyed wings, and connecting galleries or arcades, of a like height; forming altogether a front of 540 feet. Behind the main building rises a square tower six storeys high, which harmonises with the general design. The castle is faced on all sides with freestone, and encircled by an embattled coping. It stands in a park 1300 acres in extent, formerly a marsh called the Bog of Gicht,

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whence the duke himself was often styled only the "Gudeman of Gicht," and is adorned with a variety of forest trees of large dimensions, particularly the limes, horse-chesnut, and walnut trees. One of the finest is a lime behind the castle, measuring eighteen feet in girth, whose drooping branches cover an area of upwards of 200 feet in circumference. The gardens occupy about twelve acres, and the grounds are ornamented by a large pond, where the lordly swan holds undivided though secluded sway. In the castle are several paintings, copies from the old masters, by Angelica Kauffman, and a large collection of family and other portraits, of which a few are by Vandyke, Jameson, and Sir Peter Lely. As remarked by Miss Sinclair, Gordon Castle, on the whole, was, when she wrote, "the finest ducal residence in Scotland"—"a world of a house; the park is bounded only by the horizon, the trees are gigantic; everything, in short, appears on the grandest scale:" while of the older palace which preceded the present one, and which was in the Moorish style, Franks wrote in 1658, that "it struck me with admiration to gaze on so gaudy and regular a frontispiece, more especially to consider it in the *nook* of a nation."

17. Crossing now the Spey by a handsome suspension bridge, from which the view, both up and down the valley, is remarkably beautiful, we leave behind, with no regret, the last bleak spurs and ridges of the Grampians, and enter upon the soft and verdant alluvial plains of Moray. The river Spey, it will be remarked in passing, is a deep and rapid stream, subject to sudden *speats* or overflows, during which it "rolls from bank to brae" a fearful and desolating torrent. Hence it has ever been regarded as the natural bulwark or safeguard of the North Highlands, which, before the erection of the present bridge, were often completely isolated by it. Here the clans of old fought many a tough battle for their independence, and here Prince Charles Edward, in 1746, ought to have contested the passage with the English troops, and which he could have done with great advantage, instead of letting them quietly cross the Spey, and the rivers Findhorn and Nairn, before he met them at Culloden.

18. A beautiful ride of nine miles farther ushers us to the capital of Moray, the fine old ecclesiastical city of Elgin, built on the winding haughs of a deep but sluggish stream, the Lossie, and a ridge south of them, and marked from afar by

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the late Duke of Gordon's monument at the west end, erected near the ruins of a very old castellated structure on the Lady Hill, and by the dark massive towers of the cathedral at the east end, and by various public buildings, quite remarkable for a small provincial town. All the public coaches stop at the Gordon Arms Inn, in the central square of the town, which is close by the market-place and esplanade, and has the post-office directly opposite the windows, with an immense freestone fountain beneath them, suggesting rather *freezing* than *pleasing* sensations for this cool climate. Directly east of it is the huge parish church (of a *Grecian* design, surmounted by a Prince of Wales feather!) on the site of the ancient *Gothic* church of St. Giles, which was of venerable antiquity, and which had retained ample bounds around it so as to throw the neighbouring buildings well away from it in a kind of square, having a long street running east and west from either end, and numerous cross lanes and small streets south and north like the old town of Edinburgh. North Street, a little west of the inn, leads to the Lossie, and the village of Bishopmill, on the farther side of it (past the loch and old castle of Spynie), and to the seaport of Lossiemouth, distant five miles, and which, with the adjoining village of Stotfield, is much resorted to in summer for sea-bathing. A street (Moss Street and Lossie Wynd) at the east end of the town runs directly north and south, conducting, in the latter direction, to the Glen of Rothes, and the interior of the country, and near which, as being the *sunny* side of the place, there are a perfect labyrinth of old crofts and burgh riggs, a number of handsome houses and villas, and the neat churches erected by the Roman Catholic and Free Church congregations. At the west end, besides the main post road to Forres, which inclines to the north, one proceeds south-west along the Infirmary and Lunatic Asylum walls to Palmer's Cross, and the rich corn district watered by the Lossie. Elgin contains a flourishing population of about 4500 inhabitants, and possesses public printing-presses giving forth two weekly newspapers, and an extensive and valuable circulating library, and excellent academy. Society in Elgin comprehends an unusual proportion of persons in affluent or easy circumstances. The town is lighted with gas, and the inhabitants display much spirit in all measures of improvement. Owing to the vicinity of the freestone quarries of Quarrywood and Caussie, its newer

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houses and the adjoining villas appear to an advantage rarely exhibited by small provincial towns; and they are likewise, in general, tastefully designed. The streets also abound with picturesque and fantastic-looking houses, some of them of considerable antiquity, which, besides every variety of shape, often display projecting wooden balconies and piazzas, overhanging and partly encroaching on the public way, and one or two of them have still the mark of the old Templars' property on them —a high iron cross on the topmost chimney.

19. But the glory of Elgin is its venerable cathedral, now in ruins, long and justly styled "The Lanthorn of the North." (*Speculum patriæ et decus regni.*) Of this edifice there are standing only the two large square western towers (84 feet high), but without their spires, though, fortunately, the intermediate large doorway, and part of the window above, are entire; as also, at the eastern end, the choir and its cloister, the grand altar, and double-rowed and orieled windows above it, with the two eastern terminal turrets and adjoining chapter-house. The length of the cathedral measured 282 by 86 feet over the walls, and the transept was 115 feet in length, while in the centre of the whole a magnificent tower, supported on massive pillars, rose to the height of 198 feet. A flight of spacious steps received the visitor on his approach, and landed him at the great western entrance, the floor of which represents the general basement level of the whole structure. Traces of this pavement have lately been discovered, and the ascent of steps may yet be restored. The chapter-house is of an octagonal form, with windows of variously patterned tracery; and its flat stone roof is supported by a clustered pillar, nine feet in circumference, rising from the centre of the chamber beneath, and from the top of which, beautiful light groined arches proceed round the building, and unite with those composing the windows. While the general dimensions of the whole cathedral (which is in the style of the early decorated Gothic) attract admiration for their symmetry, the workmanship of the chapter-house (erected, it is supposed, about 1480) is peculiarly deserving of notice for its lightness, richness of ornament, and great delicacy in the execution of the minuter tracery, and the flowered fillets and capitals of its columns. The cathedral stands at the east end of the town of Elgin, and was surrounded by a high wall 1000 yards in circuit, having four gates. The officials had each a

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manse and garden within the precinct, in a street still called the College, and a glebe in a large adjoining field. But little is known of the original building of this noble minster, which alone, of the Scottish cathedrals of the thirteenth century, had two western towers.

The diocese of Moray was constituted by Alexander I., in the year 1115, and the foundation-stone of the cathedral was laid, on 19th July 1224, by Bishop Andrew de Moravia, nephew of that St. Gilbert who, on the opposite shore of the firth, at the same time, raised the humbler walls of Dornoch. The work was afterwards completed, through the exertions of the Popes, who caused collections in aid of the undertaking to be made in different parts of Europe, and sent artisans and architects from Rome to forward and superintend its execution. Along with the towns of Elgin and Forres, this magnificent pile was, in 1390, burned by the ferocious "Wolf of Badenoch." Alexander Stewart, son of Robert II., who also, to avenge himself on Bishop Bar for refusing to recognise him as his liege lord, set fire, at the same time, to the College, the Maison Dieu (an hospital, it is believed, for lepers), and the Town Church of St. Giles, which, with their whole writs and documents, were all reduced to a heap of ruins. Well might the old Church Chronicler style those as days in which there "was no law in Scotland, but the great man oppressed the poor man, and the whole kingdom was one den of thieves. Slaughters, robberies, fire-raising, and other crimes, went unpunished; and justice was sent into banishment beyond the kingdom's bounds." The Bishop, making his lamentation to the king of the damage done on this occasion, describes the cathedral "as the pride of the land, the glory of the realm, the delight of wayfarers and strangers, a praise and a boast among foreign nations—lofty in its towers without, splendid in its appointments within—its countless jewels and rich vestments, and the multitude of its priests." It had seven dignitaries, fifteen canons, twenty-two vicars-choral, and about as many chaplains. (See *Quarterly Review* for June 1849.) A second plundering and burning of the town and cathedral was perpetrated in 1402 by Alexander, third son of the Lord of the Isles, a worthy rival of the ferocious Wolf, who, like him, was previously sworn, bound by writ, "not to allow his men, nor any other *Kethranes*, to beg or strole through the country of Moray, nor to annoy or destroy

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the inhabitants!" Both incendiaries had speedily to propitiate the Church, and obtain absolution by costly presents. The rebuilding of the cathedral was commenced by Bishop John Innes, a son of the family of Innes, in 1407, but was not completed till 1420. In 1506, the great tower fell, and its re-erection was not finished till 1538. On the 14th of February 1568, the Regent Moray and his council issued an order to strip the roofs of the cathedrals of Elgin and Aberdeen of their lead; but the vessel freighted with it is said to have sunk in the bay of Aberdeen. Since that period the building has been, till of late, totally neglected, and suffered to fall into its present state of decay. A small sum was latterly given, by the Barons of Exchequer, to a self-constituted guardian, who displayed great taste and industry in clearing away the rubbish and restoring the ground-plan of elevation, and is still continued. Its original extent and history have been traced out by a gentleman of Elgin (Isaac Forsyth, Esq.), to whose public spirit the inhabitants of this district are, for many reasons, much indebted, and by whom a series of beautiful engravings, on a large scale, of the remains of the cathedral, with letter-press descriptions, was published some years ago. It is difficult for us, who lavish so much on our own "ceiled houses," to appreciate the sentiments of the age that decorated so profusely the house of God; but even after visiting Melrose Abbey, the stranger will be obliged to confess, on beholding Elgin, that "enough yet remains of it to entitle it to rank as at once the grandest and the most beautiful of our cathedrals, if not the most superb edifice of Scotland."—*Reg. Morav. Preface.*) Elgin, as remarked by the learned author, whose words we have just quoted—the present sheriff of the county (C. Innes, Esq.)—"long retained a strong impress of its ecclesiastical origin. Within the memory of some yet alive, it presented the appearance of a little cathedral city, very unusual among the burghs of Presbyterian Scotland. There was an antique fashion of building, and withal, a certain solemn, drowsy air about the town and its inhabitants, that almost prepared a stranger to meet some church procession, or some imposing ceremonial of the picturesque old religion. The town is changed of late. The dwellings of the citizens have put on a modern trim look, which does not satisfy the eye so well as the sober gray walls of their fathers. Numerous hospitals, the fruits of mixed charity and vanity, surround the

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town, and with their gaudy white domes and porticos, contrast offensively with the mellow colouring and chaste proportions of the ancient structures. If the present taste continues, there will soon be nothing remaining of the reverend antique town but the ruins of its magnificent cathedral."

Elgin possesses a good museum, chiefly illustrative of the geology of the district, and from this town have emerged many learned scholars and most able men, in all departments of the state. No province in the kingdom has been better illustrated than Moray by local historians and antiquaries—the foundation materials being the cathedral records which were published in 1837, under the eye of the Bannatyne Club, by the late and present Dukes of Sutherland; and the most interesting of which consists of transcripts of the more ancient documents, collected under papal authority immediately after the burnings by the Wolf of Badenoch and Alexander of the Isles. The History of the Province of Moray, by the Rev. L. Shaw, one of the ministers of Elgin of the last century, is a most valuable work; and while all the recent agricultural and other improvements have been chronicled in the new Statistical Accounts of the different parishes, and the scenery and antiquities by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, the Flora of the province have been separately illustrated by one of the clergymen, the Rev. George Gordon of Birnie, and the geology by P. Duff, Esq., a professional gentleman in the town, and by Alexander Robertson, Esq., a native of it.*

* Instead of the summary of the Geology of Moray, contained in the last edition of this work, we have now the pleasure of submitting to our readers the following synopsis or index of the subject, with which we have been favoured by Alexander Robertson, Esq., and which is the result of original observations carried on for many years. It illustrates the geology of the whole basin of the Moray Firth, and may be referred to by the geologist in Orkney.

Ventose accumulations of sand, or dunes, are largely developed at Culbin, to the west of the bay of Findhorn, where they have buried an extensive area of what was once the most fertile cultivated land in the county, and attain a height of 113 feet above low-water mark. Similar deposits, though on a less conspicuous scale, are found all along the seaward zone of the district, the sand in some cases, as at Inverugie, alternating with seams of vegetable soil.

All the different kinds of peat (with the exception perhaps of the maritime species) are met with in Morayshire. The slopes of the upper hills are covered with mountain peat, while their flats and hollows are occupied by the marsh and forest varieties. In some elevated and exposed mosses, as those on the Brown Moor, which are from 600 to 1100 feet above the sea, the stools and trunks of oak and other trees are found of a size, which the climate now existing at such heights in this district does not admit of. The stools of the oaks are sometimes more than three feet in diameter, and the breadth of their annual rings testifies to a rapid growth having taken place. In the lower region, accumulations of forest, lake, and marsh peat are of frequent occurrence, but they are, for the most part, now cultivated. In general they exhibit little that is noticeable. In autumn of 1849, however, the horn cores and part of the frontal bone of a large Bos primigenius (Boj.), together with the shed horn of a stag,

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20. In the vicinity of Elgin, the castle of Spynie, the old residence of the bishops of Moray, and the abbey of Pluscardine, are objects highly worthy of the traveller's attention; our limits, however, prevent us from attempting a description of them. We will advert, however, to

were found in cutting a drain at Westfield. These specimens are now in the Elgin Museum. A little to the west of Burgh-head there is a submarine forest, which must, from the circumstance of trees being occasionally dragged up by the anchors of ships riding in the bay, extend for a considerable distance beneath the sea. Part of it is exposed at low water. It is a combination of forest, lake, and marsh peat, and is full of cavities containing dead shells of Pholas candida, P. crispata, and Venempis perforans.

Shell marl occurs in some places, as in the old bed of the Loch of Spynie and at Inverlochty, associated with lake peat. Rock marl is found, under similar circumstances, at Newton.

Clay of a dirty white colour appears below marsh and lake peat in Mosstowie, and brownish and bluish clays are generally found thus accompanied, as at West Calcotts and Spynie.

The fluviatile deposits of the district consist of shingle, gravel, and coarse sand, and of fine sand and loam. The coarser accumulations are chiefly to be found for some distance below the gorges through which the rivers pass, as on the Lossie and Shoggle in the parish of Birnie, and on the Spey about Craigellachie. A considerable extent of the flat and fertile lands which lie along the rivers consists of loam. It is distinctly laminated, and sometimes several feet in depth, with partings of fine sand. The colour is generally brown, as at Invererne, near the Findhorn, Haughland on the Lossie, and Dandaleith on the Spey. Lower down on the last mentioned river, after the stream has passed through the deep red sandstones and conglomerates there prevalent, the loam changes to the hue mentioned, as at Dipple. No organic remains are found in the fluviatile loam; but, from the physical configuration of the country covered by it, it has evidently been deposited in lakes and estuaries now obliterated. The character of the mass precisely resembles that of the modern detritus brought down by the rivers when in flood.

Where the coast is not rocky, as is the case from the western extremity of the county to Burgh-head, between Craighead and Stotfield, and from Lossiemouth to the Spey, the present beach is bounded by a series of ridges, externally of shingle, but shewing rudely saddle-shaped alternations of gravel and shingle, when a transverse section is made. The ridges vary in size, and the distances between them are unequal. The breadth to which they extend inland is sometimes, as near Inchbroom, a mile and a half, and their number is occasionally from twenty to twenty-five, as near the Black Hill of Spey. They are, in general, nearly parallel with the existing coast line; but at Culbin and at Speyslaw they are so contorted as, in some places, to run at right angles to it. The same occurs near Inchbroom; but here the phenomenon has clearly been produced by the interference of the ancient estuary of the Lossie, and similar agency was probably at work in the other cases: in that of Speyslaw this hypothesis agrees both with etymology and tradition. The ridges are due to the piling action of waves during storms. From their mode of distribution they may be regarded as rings of growth, shewing the intermittent nature of the elevation of the land. To the east of Hopeman Lodge, and on a terrace about half a mile west of Craighead, similar series of ridges, though on a smaller scale, are found about *forty feet above the present high-water mark.*

Caves, as at Covesea, occur in the precipitous cliffs along the coast. Although due to the action of waves, they are at present generally far removed beyond the abrasive influence of the ocean. Some isolated rock pillars, as the Gu's (*i. e.* gull's) castle, near Covesea, appear on the beach below the cliffs, their bases only being now washed at high water.

From ten to twenty feet above high-water mark there are beds of rubbed and comminuted shells of existing species, as to the west of Hopeman, and close to the inn at Branderburgh. Some years ago a waterworn fissure was discovered in a sandstone quarry at Hopeman. The lower part of the cavity contained deposits of sand, shingle, and fragmented shells. At some points these reached to within four inches of the ledge which projected from one side, and formed a sort of roof to the fissure. Above

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21. Burgh-head, a seaport, about nine miles distant from Elgin, and ten from Forres. The rocky promontory on which the town or village is built projects into the firth, from the general line of the coast, in a north-westerly direction, to the extent of about three-quarters of a mile. This promontory

them lay a quantity of bones of quadrupeds, birds, and fishes, shells of Littomia littorea, Patella vulgata, and Helix hortensis, pieces of charcoal, burnt stones, and a flint arrow-head. These relics were imbedded in a brown and fetid sand, both the colour and odour of which were due to the decomposition of animal matter. Among the bones, Professor M'Gillivray distinguished those of the beaver and crane. The others belonged to the ox, red deer, &c., and, with the remaining exuviæ, were precisely similar to those usually found, as at Culbin, around the residences of the ancient inhabitants of the country. In the interval between the deposition of these remains and the quarrying operations which led to their disinterment, the upper opening of the fissure had been partially overgrown by vegetation, and then covered with blown sand. The cavity was simply a convenient receptacle for the rejectamenta of a carnivorous people, and, but for the occurrence of remains of the beaver and crane, both of which are now extinct in Britain, its investigation belongs rather to the domain of the antiquary than the geologist.

In many parts of the old bed of the Loch of Spynie there is a stratum of sea shells, under a foot or two of sand. The shells are Littorina littorea, Nerita littoralis, Ostrea edulis, Mytilus edulis, Lutraria compressa, Carduim edule, Tellina solidula, &c. In some places, as near the Watery Mains road, opposite Findrossie and Duffus Castle, the shell bed reposes on lake peat and shell marl, the latter containing Lymneus periger, Planorbis vortex, P. contortus, Pisiduim pulchellum, &c. Below this there is marine sand. The phenomena prove that, after the area had been occupied by a fresh water lake, it was again covered by the ocean.

Sand, gravel, and shingle, with occasional layers of sandy loam, all more or less regularly stratified, are very generally distributed throughout the lower part of the district. These beds are found at all elevations, from the present beach line to the height of 259 feet, as at Clunyhill near Forres. The superficial character of the strata is seldom level, in general undulating. Sometimes they appear as flat-topped hills, and bare flat hills; and at other places, as in the woods east of Lochnabo, irregular hollows have been worn into them by denudation, producing groups of confusedly arranged hillocks. Erratics of various sizes, consisting of crystalline and conglomerate rocks, are strewn over the surface of these strata in some localities, as the low grounds eastward of the Loch of Spynie, and in the woods of Urquhart. These blocks have, certainly, been transported by icebergs. No fossils have been found, owing doubtless to the porosity of the masses which are, however, unquestionably of marine origin.

Clays of various kinds, belonging to the same period as these arenacious strata, are found in some places. At Rosehaugh and Shempston the clay is red, and attains a height of thirty to forty feet above the bottom of the valley. Below the old bed of the Loch of Spynie a gray clay occurs at Lochside, and the same deposit appears at Ardivot, the top of it being here about ten feet above the present surface of the lake. Some bones of a red deer were found in the clay at Lochside. All these beds are superior to the boulder formation; but the relative ages of the different members of the series have not been satisfactorily determined. There are grounds for believing that, since the glacial period, the land has thrice suffered subsidence and elevation.

The boulder formation is well seen in Morayshire. It consists of a red loam, containing more or less rounded and striated masses of a great variety of rocks. The rocks on which it rests are grooved and scratched in a direction generally within a few degrees of north-west by west, and south-east by south; but, more rarely, as at Spynie and Linksfield, the markings run between north by east and north-north-east, to south, by west and south-south-west. The loam covers the slopes of the hills in the lower district, especially on their northern and western aspects, where, from the strata dipping in that direction, they are in general less abrupt than on their opposite faces. Formerly it must have extended over the tops of these hills, as traces of it are to be found near their highest points, and scratched surfaces occur on the summit of Quarrywood Hill, and are strikingly developed on the Moor of Carden. On the Brown Moor, 1100 feet above the sea, the thickness of the deposit is still considerable. The loam is seen to pass under the stratified sand and gravel which mantle the infe-

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rises from the neck uniting it to the mainland, at first with a gentle inclination, to within 400 feet or so of its termination. Of the remaining extent, which narrows towards the extremity, and ends in a perpendicular front towards the sea, the south-western half is a level space, of an average width of 250 feet,

rior parts of the slopes, and it is often reached, at the depth of a few feet, on penetrating the superficial beds spread over the bottoms of the valleys, as in digging for the purpose of founding houses at Elgin. In the western and southern parts of the district, the masses included in the loam are, chiefly, crystalline rocks, identical in composition with those which occur *in situ* in the Wyvis group, and old red conglomerates agreeing with those of the lower region of eastern Ross-shire. A small ammonites duplex (Low) inclosed in a matrix, corresponding with that of specimens from Shandwick, near Cromarty, was found in the boulder loam at Inverugie, nearly a mile from the sea, and 200 feet above it; and, in another part of the deposit, a slab with the peculiar fucoids of the lower old red sandstone, its mineral character being the same as that of strata at Navity, to the south of Cromarty, which yield the same species, was met with at Windberg, at an elevation of 600 feet above the sea, and about ten miles inland. Towards the interior, masses of the sandstones and conglomerates, which form the hills of the lower district of Morayshire, are mingled with the farther travelled rocks already mentioned. Thus the conglomerates of the moors of Alves and Carden are found on the Brown Moor and Tiendland, having traversed the intervening valleys, and ascended the slopes which lead to their present situation. The boulders in the loam of the northern and eastern portions of the county are probably derived from the north-east of Ross and the south of Sutherland shires, but their origin has not as yet been clearly traced.

The theory of floating ice is quite inadequate to account for the phenomena associated with the boulder loam of Morayshire. Its distribution is unequivocally due to glaciers, one of which must have come from Ben Wyvis.

At Inverugie lime-quarry, the surface of the limestone is striated and covered with boulder loam. Above this there is a thin stratum of sand and gravel, which is succeeded by several beds identical in composition and structure with the boulder loam, but separated from each other by arenaceous and gravelly seams. These beds of loam are doubtless droppings from icebergs, deposited during that subsidence of the land which ultimately put an end to the glacial period.

Between the Wealden beds at Linksfield, and the subjacent "old red" limestone, a mass of boulder loam is intercalated. The surface of the limestone is scratched and polished, and the thickness of the loam varies from an inch or two to about five feet. Besides the usual boulders, the loam contains nearly angular fragments of both the subjacent limestone, the overlying Wealden beds, and sometimes includes considerable seams of the clays and limestones of the latter. The Wealden beds have suffered considerable disturbance, and are irregularly curved. In explanation of these appearances, it is supposed that the terminal portion of a vast glacier, in the course of its resistless march, inserted itself between the surface of the underlying limestone and the yielding beds of the Wealden, scratching the former, elevating the latter, and introducing a mass of subglacial detritus (the boulder loam) beneath them. On the melting of the ice, the Wealden beds would fall down in flexures, force the plastic loam to accommodate itself to their sinuosities, and finally rest upon it, as they actually do. It may be mentioned, that M. Agassiz gives his sanction to this hypothesis.

None of the systems between the Pleistocene strata and the Oolitic series are represented in Morayshire, nor is it certain that any of the oceanic members of the latter occur absolutely *in situ*. Detached blocks belonging to several of the divisions from the superior Oolite to the Oxford clay, both inclusive, are found in the boulder loam, as well as in the overlying stratified deposits; and in some places, as near Lhanbryde, they are associated with a sandy-gray clay. Their angles are in general but slightly rounded, and they are very abundant in certain localities, from which circumstances, it may be inferred that their parent sites are not far distant from the spots where they now rest. The fossils which have been extracted from these masses include many new shells, Hybodus undulatus (Ag.) (erroneously stated in Poiss. Foss. to be from Linksfield), and an undescribed tooth of another species of the same genus.

At Linksfield, near Elgin, Wealden beds are found; but as none of the oceanic

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and 80 feet above the water; while the rest of the ground attains a somewhat higher elevation. Where the declivity commences, three parallel ramparts 15 and 20 feet high, with intervening ditches 16 feet wide (considerable portions of both of which still exist), were carried quite across the promontory.

Oolitic beds are associated with them, it is impossible to determine their position in the series. They consist of green, gray, and black clays, gray limestones, varying in shade from a dirty white to almost black, and in texture from compact to crystalline, shale, and calcareous grit in nodules and concretional masses. The fossils of the grits are bones, scales, and teeth of fishes, and teeth of Plesiosaurus; some of the upper pale-coloured limestones abound in shells, with occasional remains of fishes; the gray shale is full of the cases of Cypris, and also contains icthyic relics; while the under surface, of a blackish limestone, ten or twelve feet from the bottom of the series—itself almost a mass of bivalves, and resting on dark-coloured clay—has yielded most of the larger specimens of vertebrata hitherto discovered. The total thickness of these strata is about thirty-five feet. They are found, though much less developed, in other places in the neighbourhood of Elgin; and that their former extension must have greatly exceeded their present limits, is proved by the occurrence of detached masses of the stony beds, in the superficial detritus of localities several miles apart. The remains obtained from these strata are, a femur of a species of Trionyx, (Prof. Owen,) vertebræ of Plesiosaurus subconcavus oro, and teeth of Plesiosaurus; scales of species of Semionotus, Lepidotus, Pholidophorus, and Euguathus (?); teeth of Hybodus Lawsoni, Duff, and H. dubius Agass., and of Sphenonchus Martini, Ag., and an Acrodus; spines of Hybodus. The shells are of the genera Melanopsis, Paludina and Planorbis, Ostrea Avicula, Modiola, Mytilus, Astarte, Unio, and Cyclas. There are also valves of Cypris, fragments of carbonized wood, and two or three species of ferns.

Morayshire contains neither Triassic, Permian, nor carboniferous rocks; but those of the Old Red Sandstone system are well displayed, and several of the strata abound in icthyic remains, although as yet no trace of Mollusca or Crustacea has been discovered. As is generally the case with this series, the classification of its members, from their included fossils, does not correspond with that of any other district. Many of the beds are unfossiliferous, so that a rigid definition of the limits of the divisions is impracticable. The uppermost of these consists of gray, yellow, and red sandstones and conglomerates, both fine and coarse, associated in some places with chocolate-coloured shale; there are also occasional deposits of more or less siliceous limestone. The ridges of Stotfield, Covesea, Inverugie, and Roseille, belong to this division. Its thickness is considerable, but notwithstanding diligent search, it has only produced a single fossil, the Stragonolepis Robertsoni Ag. found at Stotfield by Mr. Duff. The second division is composed of sandstones and siliceous conglomerates of various hues, and sometimes containing calcareous matter; seams of chocolate-coloured shale and fuller's earth; limestones like those above them; and at Cothall, on the Findhorn, above the limestone, a green clay with calcareous nodules. The strata of Quarrywood, and the moors of Carden and Alves, of the magnificent section on the Findhorn, of Seat Craig, and of the Lossie and Shoggle in Birnie, are included in this division. The limestone beds are unfossiliferous; but the other strata generally yield either osseous relics of fishes, or the impressions of them, in greater or less abundance. Prof. Agassiz has figured and described the following icthyolites from these beds, in his "Monographie des Poissons du Vieux Gres Rouge," Pterichthys major, Holoptychius Nobilissimus, H. giganteus, Dendrodus strigatus, D. latus, D. sigmoideus, Lamnodus viporeatus, L. hastatus, Cricodus incurvus, Asterolepis Malcolmsoni, Bothriolepis ornata, B. favosa, Actinolepis tuberculata, Placothorax paradoxus, and Cosmacanthus Malcolmsoni. There have been found, besides these, many species as yet unedited. The conglomerate of Seat Craig abounds in fossils, and many are also to be extracted from the rocks of the Findhorn. Beautifully perfect impressions of scales and osseous plates have been discovered in the Bishopmill and Hospital quarries, and in those of Carden Moor. The lowest division includes red and gray sandstones and conglomerates, red shales, and clay with calcareous nodules, all resting on a very coarse conglomerate of great thickness. These strata are found on the Spey, and the base of the Brown Moor and Tiendland is composed of the lowest conglomerate. At Dipple, near Fochabers, the nodular beds occur.

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Ramparts, on some sides still pretty entire, encompassed both the upper and lower terminal areas within these breastworks. The houses of the modern town occupy the inclined surface in regular lines of low-sized buildings. About thirty years ago, there was discovered, within the rampart of the upper area, a very interesting memorial of the mighty people whose grasping ambition led them to tenant even this remote corner of the world, and whose soldiery, in all probability, ceased to be its occupants less than a couple of centuries after the commencement of the Christian era. It consists of a cubical-shaped covered chamber (the sides of which measure 14 feet each) cut in the solid rock, and having in the centre a cistern, 4 feet deep, and 10 feet 9 inches square, in which springs up a fountain of clear fresh water. A projecting cornice, one foot broad, runs

They are of the same age as those of Tynat, in Banffshire, and Lethenbar, in Nairnshire, and also contain remains of fishes; but the fossils are both fewer in species, and much less perfect, than those of the adjoining counties just mentioned. The fishes are of the genera Coccosteus, Asterolepis, Glyptolepis, and Osteolepis. No Silurian rocks have been discovered in Morayshire. The interior of the county is composed of Hypogene masses, but, so far as these have been examined, they present little worthy of special notice. Neither Volcanic nor Trappian rocks have been met with, but the dip of the Old Red Sandstone strata (sometimes as much as twelve to fifteen degrees) shews that powerful subterraneous forces at one time prevailed in the district.

The "Sketch of the Geology of Morayshire," by P. Duff, Esq. of Elgin, published some years ago, contains much information on the subject to which it refers, and is beautifully illustrated by engravings of the unique specimens in the author's cabinet. There are, besides the collection referred to, that of the Elgin Museum, and several others, belonging to Mr. Martin, Mr. Robertson, and other gentlemen in the town and its vicinity, all of which are, doubtless, open to the inspection of the geological wanderer.

According to Mr. Duff, the following is the

Descending Series in Morayshire.

1. Purbreck beds of the Wealden, a branch of the Oolite.
   Localities.—Linksfield, Pitgaveny, Spynie, Waulkmill, and Maryhill.
2. Inferior Oolite.
   Inverugie, Duffus-house, and Lhanbryde.
3. Cornstone
   Linksfield, Inverugie, Glassgreen, Cothall.
4. Old red sandstone, or Devonian System.
   (*a.*) Yellow, or Uppermost Division.
   Bishopmill and Quarrywood.
   (*b.*) Gray or Middle Division.
   Newton, Moor of Alves, Burgh-head, Hopeman, Covesea, Lossiemouth, and sections of the Findhorn above Cothall to Sluie.
   (*c.*) Lowest, or Red Division.
   Dipple, Burn of Tynet, Clunie, Lethan Bar (fossiliferous), and Lossiemouth and Laurencetown (unfossiliferous.)

N.—At Lethan Bar and Clunie, the fossil fish occur in crystalized fibro-calcareous nodules of an elliptical form, embedded in a bituminous shale, which is there the representative of the great calcareo-bituminous schists of Caithness and Ross shires. The same strata are prolonged westward, and are found to be fossiliferous in the ridge of the Leys, in Strathnairn, and behind Inverness. The height of Covesea hill is 288 feet; of Quarrywood hill, 280 feet; Pluscardine hill, 776 feet; and the hill of Dallas, 850 feet.

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round the chamber, about 6 feet from the top of the walls, and at one of its angles is a pedestal for a statue. The communication from without is through an excavated passage on one side, and a flight of stone steps ascending to the surface of the ground. The chamber is coated with plaster, which, though now faded, was, when first opened, of a deep red colour, and its angles are rounded. No Roman coins have been dug up here, but on some shapeless slabs of freestone met with in the well, the figure of a bull is outlined in coarse *basso-relievo*, believed to have been sculptured by the Roman soldiers.

There can hardly be a doubt that Burgh-head is the Ultima Ptoroton of the Romans, mentioned in the monk Richard of Cirencester's curious but questionable journal, said to have been written A. D. 1338. The position assigned by him to that station is the mouth of the Varar, which is generally admitted to mean the river Beauly, one branch of which is still named the Farrar; and there are reasons for thinking that this river then flowed through the open strath on which the sea has since encroached, forming the Beauly Firth, and that the dry land at that time extended as far eastward as the promontory on which Fort-George stands; so that Burgh-head and Tarbetness, opposite to it, would have really composed the points of the *Varar Æstuarium*. General Roy in his "Military Antiquities," and Chalmers in his "Caledonia," concur in opinion that Tuesis, a name made use of in connexion with Ptoroton, was a station near the mouth of the river Spey, probably at Bellie, north of Gordon Castle, where there are still the vestiges of an encampment believed to be Roman. A place called Varis is stated as eight miles distant from Ptoroton. The name and the distance correspond with those of Forres (in Gaelic Far-Uisge, pronounced Faruish); above which, midway, round the highest of the Clunie Hills, are traces of an encampment; while at the Doune Hill of Relugas, and, we believe, some others also of the neighbouring vitrified forts and ancient British strongholds, remains of Roman pottery and arms have been found, seemingly indicating that they were occupied for a short time by that people. Towards the south, between Forres and Cromdale, near Grantown, on the Spey, there are traces for several miles through the hills of what appears to have been a Roman road. In two different routes to Ptoroton, Tuesis or the Spey is noticed, and on one is set down as the stage next to that place, and on the other to

Varis, and Varis to Ptoroton : Bellie and Cromdale seem exactly to answer this description of the situation of Ptoroton. It is easy, however, to deceive one's self, like Monkbarns, on Antiquarian matters : and Mr. Arrowsmith has shown many reasons for our being suspicious of the old English monk and all the modern illustrations of his supposed journey to Scotland. We may add, however, as matter of fact, that some years ago Burghhead was known among the country people of this district by the name of Torrietown. The Norwegian Earls of Orkney, who were in constant warfare with the Scottish Earls of Sutherland and Caithness, and the pirates from Denmark and Norway who infested our seas for nearly four centuries, are known to have found at Ptoroton a commodious harbour for their fleets, and an impregnable fortress ; and after their occupation of it the place acquired its modern Norse appellation of Burgh-head. All our historians are silent as to the length of time during which it was either permanently held or occasionally resorted to by these Northmen.

About two miles east of Burgh-head, a range of high rocky cliffs commences, containing a series of caves, and presenting some fine cliff scenery : they are called the Coves of Caussie, and are celebrated as the resort of bands of tinkers or Scottish gipsies ; and close by them is the house of Gordonstown, built by the last Sir Robert of that old family, a cadet of the House of Sutherland, and who, from his morose disposition, and retired scientific habits, was believed to have dealt in the "Black Art" of Diablerie, and to have had no shadow like other men. Sir William Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstown, now enjoys this estate and baronetcy.

22. We now resume the route along the main post road. A beautiful drive through the woods, and past the freestone quarries, of Quarrywood (belonging to the Fife property), and behind the Knock of Alves, brings us (four miles from Elgin) at Newton (Forteath) upon a high moorish table land, along which, with a few slight undulations, the road continues to Forres—overlooking the plain or "laigh of Moray," an immense stretch of cultivated land, scarcely elevated above the present sea-level, and on the further side of which a continuous ridge extends westwards from the Stotfield lighthouse to the hill of Roseille —at right angles, to which the bold promontory of Burgh-head juts out into the ocean. Along with the next western seaport

of Findhorn, it will be descried as dotted over with clusters of houses and shipping. The ridge alluded to was at one time an insular one, and was likely *elevated* by a *granitic* upheaval, which has burst out among the sandstones at Stotfield in the form of pure white and highly crystallized quartz rock, with small veins and nests of galena or lead ore. On the farther side of the firth the mountain ranges of Caithness, Sutherland, and Ross, come distinctly into view; while more to the west the bluff Sutors of Cromarty in the foreground lead off the eye to the Cromarty or Dingwall firth, backed by the huge and imposing form of Ben Wyvis, and the more elegantly-formed peaks of Strath Conon. The proprietors along this stage are chiefly the Earl of Moray, Campbell Brodie of Lethan, and Grant Peterkin of Grange; and the places of most interest along the road side are the village of the Crook, and old kirk of Alves on the right; the Free Church of the same parish, with the old towers of Burgie and Blervie on the left.

23. Half a mile from Forres the celebrated carved cross or obelisk, called *Sweno's Stone*, stands on the right hand, on the margin of a field close to the toll-bar, whence a road strikes off to Findhorn. Since the days of Pennant it has given rise to many puzzling questions among archæologists. It is about twenty feet high above ground, and is carved over with figures of warriors, both on foot and horseback (some of them also decapitated), and with birds and animals, together with very beautiful Runic knots and circles, cut in *alto-relievo*. By whom, or for what purpose, this very costly pillar was erected, are questions as yet undetermined, and on which our limits forbid us to enter; except to remark, that the general belief is, that it was erected to celebrate the final expulsion of the Danes, in the reign of Malcolm II., from this coast; and that an expression in a charter of the neighbouring lands of Burgie by Alexander II., and which bears, among other signatures, that of Freskinus de Moravia, stating that the grant extended "a magno quercu in Malvin usque ad *Rune Pictorum*," is supposed as possibly referring to *Sweno's stone*, and to be the earliest written document which mentions it.

24. Two miles north of this obelisk are the ruins of the once extensive and beautiful Abbey of Kinloss, founded in 1150 by the pious King David I. The monks were Cistertians, and amply endowed; and they appear to have been excellent gar-

deners. The abbots were mitred, and had a seat in Parliament. In 1650, the Laird of Lethen, the then proprietor, with Gothic barbarity, consented to the destruction of this stately edifice, and converted it into a quarry for the erection of Cromwell's citadel at Inverness. It stood on a slightly elevated plain, bordering the wide embouchure, or bay, into which the river Earn or Findhorn empties itself below Forres, and from which its waters are again ushered through a narrow passage into the open sea at the port of Findhorn.

This village is beset with great sand-banks, on which a heavy surf is generally beating, and as these bars frequently shift their position, the navigation is not pleasant. Findhorn, it is believed, has changed its site more than once, owing to the encroachments of the sands which have been drifted along from the westwards.

The extensive and beautiful estate of Culbin, or Coubin, on the west side of the estuary, anciently called "the granary of Moray," having been possessed, from the earliest times, by a wealthy family of the name of Kinnaird, who derived their descent from Freskinus, first Lord of Moray, and whose last curious monument (dated in 1613) still exists in the adjoining churchyard of Dyke, was swallowed up, about two centuries ago, by these moving sands, which rise on it in long shelving hillocks and ridges to the height of more than 100 feet above the sea.

25. Forres probably stands on the site of the ancient Varris of Ptolemy, one of the stages between Ptoroton (Burgh-head), the farthest Roman station on this coast, and their permanent encampments in Strathspey, and on their road across the central chain of the Grampian mountains. At the west end of the town, a high projecting bank, level on the surface, but steep on three sides, is supposed to have been the site of the Roman camp; and on the same foundation the Castle of Forres, a stronghold of the Earls of Moray, and frequently dignified, both before and during their sway, by the presence of royalty, was subsequently built. A small part of the walls, and the lower dungeons of this structure, still remain. Forres was the seat of the Archdean of Moray, but it was never rich in ecclesiastical buildings.

The modern town of Forres contains at present about 3700 inhabitants, and is situated on a dry and beautiful terraced bank, sloping gently towards the south and north, having one

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main street, with numerous lanes of houses diverging from its sides, which are separated from one another by old and productive gardens. Forres commands the advantages of cheap living, and a good seminary of education, a large parish church, a free church, one or two dissenting meeting-houses, and an Episcopal chapel, a new jail and court-house, a decorated cross, handsome assembly rooms, two excellent inns, and the *Forres Gazette*; and its neighbourhood has always possessed a polite and kind gentry. None of the buildings in the town require particular notice; but the traveller will not fail to perceive strong indications of the Flemish origin of the people in their fair features, broad dialect, and in the old-fashioned style of having their houses generally erected with their gables towards the street, and in the low Saxon archways, conducting to their inner courts and small dark shops.

The very beautiful undulating range of the Clunie Hills, which are crowned with pine woods, and encircled with numerous walks, press in upon the town towards the south. On the nearest of them an ancient hill fort stood—the first link, also, it is probable, of the chain of signal-posts which extended from the sea to the interior of the country, and by means of which the approach of hostile fleets was announced in ancient times to the inhabitants of the inland glens. In its room a high tower has been erected, to commemorate the victory of Trafalgar under Lord Nelson; from the summit of which a most extensive view is obtained of all the very varied lands and mountain screens bordering the Moray Firth.

We have in a separate chapter (Route II. D.) described the scenery about Altyre and the upper parts of the Findhorn, and we have here only to remind the tourist, that he ought, on no account, to quit Forres without examining the course of the stream upwards from Findhorn bridge, by Cothall, the Ramphlet, and Sluie, to Logie and Relugas, and thence to Farness, with the glen of the Divie, than which, a finer or more varied walk does not exist in all Scotland.

26. Crossing now the Findhorn, along the handsome suspension bridge latterly erected over it, the road skirts, for the first two miles on the left, the lower fringes of the Tarnaway oak and pine forest which extends for many miles inland, concealing from view, though not far distant, Tarnaway Castle, the northern seat of the Earl of Moray. The grounds them-

selves are well worthy of being examined; but the castle hall, an apartment 90 feet long by 35 feet broad, is inferior to none in Scotland, and resembles much the Parliament House of Edinburgh. The walls rise to the height of 30 feet, and a carved roof of solid black oak, divided by large knobs and compartments, forms the arched ceiling. A suitable fire-place that would roast a stalled ox, an enormous oaken table, and some carved chairs, still garnish this hall, though the modern apartments in front of it but ill correspond with its Gothic character. It was erected as a hunting-lodge, in the fourteenth century, by Randolph, first Earl of Moray, the friend and companion of Robert the Bruce, and Regent of Scotland during the minority of David II.; but it was not the Earl's chief country residence, as, in the charter of erection of the earldom, the Castle of Elgin, "manerium de Elgyn," is appointed "pro capitali mansione comitatus Moraviæ." It appears also, from a charter of Robert III. to Thomas le Graunt, son of John le Grant, dated in 1390 (Regist. No. 22, p. 473), that there was an older royal castle of Tarnaway, which was previously in the keeping of the Cumings, and afterwards of the Grants; and in fact, the Cuming family, Earls of March, seem to have been introduced from Forfarshire, as the great instruments for exterminating, or at least suppressing, the early insurrections of the clan Chattan, who were thus in all probability the aboriginal Celtic inhabitants of Moray.

27. The road now rapidly passes along the estate of Brodie of Brodie, an old and respectable family, whose castle (modernized) lies on the north side surrounded with fine old trees, and the hall of which is a small but beautiful specimen of its sort, with a finely carved pendant roof of oak. The adjoining churchyard of Dyke contains one of the strange old sculptured obelisks which abound in this district; and immediately to the eastward is the beautiful little property and mansion-house of Dalvey (Norman M'Leod), distinguished in the north for its flower gardens and conservatories, and which fully justify the eulogium of old, passed by George Buchanan on the amenity and productiveness of this district.

28. About a mile beyond Brodie, we quit Elgin or Moray shire and enter on the parish of Auldearn and county of Nairn; and, ascending a little eminence, we see beneath, on the north, an extensive plain, stretching eastwards from an old tower (the

Castle of Inchok) for several miles, but partially cultivated, and exhibiting many ugly dark pools and quagmires. Until a recent period the whole neighbourhood, to the banks of the Findhorn, was bleak and heathery, and passed under the name of the "hard moor." Tradition assigns to it a highly classic interest, as being the "blasted heath," on which Macbeth, according to Shakespere, met the "weird sisters;" and a little hillock planted with fir trees, immediately north of the toll-bar west of Brodie, is shown as the precise spot at which they vanished from the sight of the ambitious usurper.

——— "Say from whence
You owe this strange intelligence? or why
Upon this *blasted heath* you stop our way
With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you."

Well might a traveller, in the olden time, here anxiously inquire, "How far is't call'd to Forres?" The thanedom of Cawdor is made, in the dialogue between Macbeth and Banquo, an object only second to the crown:

"*Macbeth.*—Your children shall be kings,
Banquo.—You shall be king.
Macbeth.—And Thane of Cawdor, too; went it not so?
Banquo.—To the self same tune and words."

After all, these same thanedoms could not have been such objects of ambition as the dramatist and popular belief make them; for, from the undoubted evidence of the Registrum Moraviense, or Chartulary of Elgin Cathedral (page 471-2), it appears that there were at least four of them between Nairn and Forres—namely, Cawdor, Moyness, Brothyn, now Brodie, and Dyke; and an opinion is gaining ground among antiquaries, that the term Thane is a Saxon translation of a Celtic office of no great dignity and importance; and that latterly, at least, the landed territory belonging to such was partially cultivated, and was not always held of the crown, or even of a subject-superior, for the usual return of personal military service.

29. Auldearn, two miles farther on, a village of considerable antiquity, at which the river Nairn seems at one time to have emptied itself into the sea, and where the district road from Inverness and Cawdor joins the post road, is noted as the scene of a most sanguinary battle (in 1645) between the celebrated Marquis of Montrose, the King's Lieut.-General in Scotland, and the Parliamentary army, commanded by the experienced

Hurry, and the Earls of Sutherland and Seaforth, who were accompanied by the flower of the covenanting clans, and the gentry of Moray and Aberdeen. A sketch of the order of battle and onset is subjoined.*

In the burying-ground of Auldearn, there are several interesting covenanting monuments, and also some of the Hays of Lochloy and Moyness, whose Castle of Inchok stands a ruin a little to the eastward. It was in apology of an injury done to

* The battle of Auldearn was fought on the 9th May 1645. Montrose seems to have calculated for success almost entirely on generalship and artifice; and he made an exquisitely skilful arrangement of his troops. The ground he selected was a sort of hollow, behind, or to the east of the ridge on which stands the village of Auldearn, and behind various other heights which stretch northward from that village, towards the house of Boath. He arranged his army in two wings or divisions: one, consisting of the Gordons and the horse, he placed on the left, to the south of the village; the other, comprehending the Irish and Highlanders, he arranged on the right, amidst the gardens and enclosed fields to the north of Auldearn. The former he commanded in person, with Lord Gordon under him; the latter was given in charge to Alaster MacCol. The entire village intervening betwixt the two bodies was only occupied by a few foot, who however displayed a number of banners, and passed off for a main body. He gave the charge of the royal standard—a large yellow banner—to MacCol, in the expectation that it would induce the enemy to attack him with their best regiments; in which case, as they were sure to be difficulted in charging, he calculated upon deciding the day by attacking their flank obliquely with his left wing at the moment of distress, when the whole were almost sure of being thrown into irremediable confusion.

The battle turned out almost exactly as he had calculated. Hurry, the covenanting general, on approaching him from Nairn (with an army of 3500 foot and 600 horse, to whom Montrose could only oppose 1500 foot and 200 horse), found it totally impossible to comprehend the arrangements of an enemy who had taken up so mysterious a position; but was induced, by the sight of the royal standard on the right wing, to direct his strength chiefly upon that point. His men not only met there with a warm reception from MacCol, but presently became confused by reason of the enclosures and ditches through which they had to make their charge. When Montrose saw them in that condition, he brought forward the left wing, which, by an arrangement similar to that of Epaminondas at Leuctra, was much the strongest, and made a furious flank attack upon the great mass of the covenanting enemy. This being chiefly composed of raw Highland foot from Ross and Sutherland, probably averse to the cause, was quite unable to withstand the charge of the Gordon chivalry, led, as it was, by such men as Montrose, Lord Gordon, and the brave Sir Nathaniel. Hurry saw the advantage his opponent had gained, and endeavoured to neutralise it, by ordering his whole horse to the support of the wavering lines on his right; but the commanding officer, a Captain Drummond, either through treachery or stupidity, misapprehended the order, and, wheeling to the left instead of the right, only threw the disciplined regiments who were contending with MacCol into greater confusion.

It was at this battle that this Hebridian ally MacCol, commonly called Macdonald Colkitto, performed most signal prodigies of valour almost single-handed. With the impetuosity of a Highlander, he had permitted himself to be drawn beyond the enclosures, which Montrose had assigned to him to defend, by the insulting language of the enemy, and, in consequence, he was nearly surrounded and cut to pieces. At one time he received several successive pikes on his target; but by his amazing strength of arm he cut off the heads of those weapons, sometimes more than one at a time, and by one particular stroke, no fewer than five, breaking his own sword. The enemy's foot fought most bravely; and this was one of the most sanguinary battles ever fought by Highlanders, there having been no less than 3000 of the Covenanters slain (of whom, it is said, 87 left widows in the lordship of Lovat alone); while Montrose only lost 24 men, and captured 16 standards and the whole baggage and provisions of his opponents, whose general officers had great difficulty in escaping to Inverness.

this family in a *cattle-lifting raid* that Cameron of Lochiel wrote to the Laird of Grant on the 18th October 1645, that his men went not to his "*worship's bounds, bot to Morray land q^re all men take yair prey*, nor knew not y^t Moyness was ane Graunt, but thocht y^t he was ane Morray man;" and adding, in reference to the conflict that had occurred at the "*lifting*," "that who got the greatest loss be refearrit to the sight of friends that luveth us both alyke; for their is such a truble heir [Glenlocharkeg in Lochaber] we cannot luke to the samin for the present time, for we have *aught men dead* alreadie, and twelve or thirteen under cure, q^lk I know not quho shall die or quho shall live!"

30. Nairn is a clean, healthy, little town, on a dry airy bank, rising from the river of that name, near its embouchure into the sea; having, on a lower beach, a cluster of fishermen's houses, called the *sea-town*. It is a royal burgh, uniting with Forres, Fortrose, and Inverness, in sending a representative to Parliament; and, anciently, it had a royal castle, of which the neighbouring Barons, Roses of Kilravock, were constables. A jail and court-house, a large and comfortable hotel, three banks, and five churches (one of them intended for an Episcopal congregation), a good academy, a free church school, and an infirmary, constitute its principal public buildings; while in the neighbourhood, are several pretty villas and numerous well-stocked gardens. The soil is early and kindly; and from the cheapness of living, purity of the air, and especially from its having an extensive sandy sea-beach, Nairn is, in summer, a resort of many strangers for sea-bathing. A most comfortable set of warm and cold salt-water baths have been fitted up on the shore, which are let out on very moderate terms. Recently the harbour has been greatly enlarged, and a long jetty thrown out, so as to give safe access to sailing vessels and steamers, which now touch at Nairn as one of their regular calling ports. It was of this town that the facetious King James VI. was wont to boast to his English courtiers, that he had a town in Scotland "sae lang, that the folk at the tae end couldna understand the tongue spoken at the tother"—alluding to its being inhabited by Gaelic Celts at the west end, and by Broad Scotch fishermen at the opposite extremity.

31. One mile west from Nairn the house of Balblair (to the left), on the summit of a lofty terrace, marks the spot where the

Duke of Cumberland's army lay encamped in April, 1746, prior to their marching to fight the decisive battle on Culloden or Drumossie Moor. It overlooks the whole route by which the Highlanders had to approach in their meditated night attack; and the spot may be seen from it (about two miles off), where the rebels faced about, in the early dawn, on perceiving, by the watch-fires and the noise of the kettle-drums, that their enemy was aware of their advance, and could not be taken by surprise. West of the encampment a great extent of dark and very deep peat mosses, with quagmires and ugly lakes, may be seen, filling hollows in the gravel beds, which here overspread the district. These peat hags are continued almost uninterruptedly westwards to the great moss of Petty, which is nearly on a level with the sea, and seems at one time to have been overflown by it.

32. A little way beyond the second mile-stone the road forks into two, the branch inclining to the left being the newest and shortest route to Inverness, while that which proceeds direct on to the right (and along which the mail coach still travels) leads to the village of Campbelltown and the garrison of Fort-George, described below.*

The undulating gravel plain we are now passing, is in itself quite uninteresting, except that in summer and autumn it is rendered beautiful by the rich yellow blossoms of the furze, or *whins* and *broom*, succeeded by the crimson of the heather bell, and that cultivation and improvement increase as we get westwards. On the road side, towards Fort-George, a few upright

* *The village of Campbelltown* (eleven miles and a-half from Inverness) is a burgh of barony on Earl Cawdor's property. It is a poor place; but on the high bank behind the town there are the mounds of an ancient British hill fort, called Cromal (by some supposed to have been a station of Oliver Cromwell's troops), which commands a most extensive view. It is likewise a locality of several rare plants, especially the beautiful mountain pink (Dianthus deltoides), which also occurs on the Ross-shire coast, especially near Cruigton, at Kessock.

Fort-George is situated on the point of Ardersier (one mile from Campbelltown), which projects far out into the sea, and appears from a distance as if united to the opposite point of Chanonry in Ross. It is an irregular polygon, with six bastions, mounting 18 twenty-four, 25 eighteen, 22 twelve, and 4 six pounders, and 4 thirteen-inch mortars. It was built soon after the rebellion of 1745, for the purpose of keeping the Highlanders in subjection. The land front is defended by a ditch, covert way, and glacis, two lunettes and a ravelin, mounting 8 twelve-pounders. The north and south curtains are casemated, each containing 27 bomb-proof apartments, fifty-two feet long by twelve feet wide. The grand magazine is bomb-proof, and will hold 2474 barrels of gunpowder. The staff buildings lie towards the land front, and are occupied by the governor's, lieutenant-governor's, and officers' quarters: the artillery barracks are also in these buildings. At the eastern extremity of the garrison there are two small casemated magazines, fifty feet long by thirty-four broad, with ammunition made up for immediate use. The barracks are constructed for a governor,

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stones of memorial, circles of stones, and circular enclosures of earth (like the *pond barrows* of England), seem to indicate the sites of ancient encampments and battle-fields. The other road is fringed by the fine woods of Kilravock and Cawdor (*as to which see Branch* A. *to this Route*), and every step as we advance, the hills of the Highlands, to whose capital—Inverness—we are now advancing, seem to approach us in increasing beauty, presenting in close detail and relief their garniture of trees, and fields, and wide heaths, with summits of every variety of outline.

33. Conspicuous on the ridge to the left is the old Castle of Dalcross (see Branch A. Route III.), where Cumberland's troops were put in battle array by his officers, ere entering on their last tough conflict with Prince Charlie's clans on the same ridge a little to the westward; and on the plain of Pettie below, Castle Stewart (six miles from Inverness) comes in sight, near the junction of the upper road with the old military one from Fort-George, and on the line of the latter.

34. Castle Stewart, a residence of Lord Moray, is worthy of a visit, as a fine example of the castellated mansion, intermediate between the baronial keep and the plain modern house. It consists of a large high-roofed building of several storeys, the lower having a row of cells or dungeons; the upper containing the great hall and principal apartments. In front it is protected by two projecting square towers thrown out from either extremity; and behind it is fretted with a variety of long-stalked chimneys, hanging bedchambers, pointed windows, and round pepper-box turrets. The western tower is the largest and handsomest, and contained the principal entrance-gate and main staircase. It appears to be of greater antiquity than the rest

lieutenant-governor, fort-major, chaplain, 8 field-officers, 22 captains, 56 subalterns, and 2090 non-commissioned officers and privates. The fort is also provided with a chapel, brewhouse, bakehouse, and inn, and is supplied with water from eight pump-wells. At the north and west angles the sea has thrown up large gravel banks, but on the east it has rather been encroaching too near the foundation of the walls; and like all other promontories opposed to the sea, this one must necessarily, though very gradually, give way on one side, while the debris will be deposited in a bay or hollow on the other. The drawbridges and main approach form an elegant and imposing piece of workmanship, and the whole of the masonry has been executed in the handsomest and firmest manner. Fort-George, in short, is considered a model of a fortified place: yet it is only secure against attacks from the sea: for it is thought it could be easily battered from the adjoining height above Campbelltown, or that lines of approach could be formed against it in the sandhills to the eastward. The few officers who are obliged to reside in it during "the piping times of peace" find it exceedingly dull; and, certainly, had their comfort, and the interests of the Highlands in general, been thought of at the time of its erection, it would have been built at Inverness, not on the remote cold promontory on which the garrison now stands.

of the building; and may, perhaps, be part of the older castle of Hallhill, often mentioned in the annals of this parish, and which for some time was possessed by the Ogilvies of Findlater. It was burnt in the year 1513. Till very lately, this castle was celebrated for its orchard, especially for its geans, a small kind of cherry; and the forest trees round the park were among the finest in the country. The apartments inside had become disfigured, the rafters were carried away, and the slates had fallen from the roof, and the whole fabric was fast crumbling into ruin, had not the proprietor, the late Earl of Moray, seasonably interfered, and given orders for restoring the structure as much as possible to its ancient beauty. The precise period at which this castle was erected is disputed. By some it is said to have been a favourite residence of James IV., and to have been built as a hunting-seat. Others assert that the Regent Moray was its founder, and that Queen Mary occasionally paid it a visit. Its style of architecture rather belies the antiquity assigned to it; and the date on the building (1625) tallies with the only authentic notice we can find of it, which is in Sir Robert Gordon's Earldom of Sutherland, p. 391. Speaking of a dissension between the Earl of Moray and the clan Chattan, the historian says, "This year (1624) they goe (the clan Chattan) to *ane hous* which he (the earl) hath now of late built in Pettie, called Castell Stuart; they dryve away his servants from thence, and doe possess themselves of all the Earl of Moray his rents in Pettie. Thus they intend to stand out against him." The whole district, however, originally, we suspect, belonged to the clan Chattan, and they were only trying to regain what the "bonnie" Earls of Moray had gradually *squeezed* from them. The estate of Culloden, on which we now enter, was the last holding on the plain of Pettie which belonged to the Mackintosh, chief of clan Chattan, and it was parted with in James VI.'s time to the founder of the Culloden family (Duncan Forbes, provost of Inverness, and an advocate at the Scottish bar), for good service done, in protecting the laird at court against the oppressions of the Earls of Moray and Huntly. Four miles from Inverness is seen on the left the House of Culloden, a stately mansion, in the style of the English palaces of last century, beautifully embosomed in woods; and in which, besides some relics of the "forty-five," there is a good collection of paintings—one,

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in particular, by Titian, the "Flight into Egypt," being highly valued.

Behind Castle Stewart are previously seen, on the right, the church and manse of Pettie, with the bay of that name beneath. On the bank above are two of the largest tumuli, called Moat Hills, in this country. The circumference of each is at the base 150 feet, at the top 120; and the height 42 feet. On the south side of the bay an immense stone, weighing at least eight tons, which marked the boundaries between the estates of Moray and Culloden, was, on the night of Saturday, the 20th February 1799, removed and carried forward into the sea about 260 yards. Some believe that nothing short of an earthquake could have moved such a mass; but it is more probable that a large sheet of ice, which had collected to the thickness of eighteen inches round the stone, had been raised by the tide, lifting the stone with it, and that their motion forward was aided by a tremendous hurricane which blew from the land.*

35. At length (when three and a-half miles off) the smoke, with the houses and shipping, of Inverness—the low lying Highland capital—come into view across a reach of the Moray Firth, the waters of which, pressed in at Kessock Ferry (which separates Inverness from Ross-shire), again expand and fill the inner basin of Loch Beauly, the huge lengthened bulk of Ben Wyvis looming high above the skirting eminences. The opposing shores are lined with terraced gravel banks, on which are seen numerous cottages and farm-steads; and the prospect on all hands, and particularly to the south-west, along the course of the great Caledonian valley—the foreground intersected by rich belts of hardwood—and westwards, in the direction of the Lovat country, called the Aird, and Strath Glass—ranges of distant mountains rising beyond the valley of the firth—is from this point as varied and beautiful as can well be imagined. The mid-distance of the picture, also, is very elegantly set off and framed, as it were, between the opposite hills and vitrified forts of Craig-Phadrick, and the Ord of Kessock, which guard the entrance to Loch Beauly.

* On the plain of Pettie, and near the junction of the roads last mentioned, a number of small, but very perfect, Druidical circles are to be seen. They vary in form, but in general there are two concentric circles, with the stones set close together, and having an outer circle of larger ones several feet apart from each other. In one instance, two circles touch one another, forming the figure 8.

36. Our readers will elsewhere find ample details as to the accommodations and sights in and around Inverness. (See Section IV.) We have only farther to inform them, that in the latter part of the present route, since quitting the Spey, they have been travelling over a portion of the old Province or See of Moray, which, both as to physical structure, and from the history and prevailing language of the inhabitants, rather belongs to the *Lowlands* than to the *Highlands* of Scotland. Anciently, however, the whole of this district was possessed by Gaelic tribes, governed by one of the most powerful families, the great Celtic *Maormors* of Moray. Continually engaged with hostile Norsemen, who were located on the northern shores of their firth, and who seem occasionally to have established themselves even in the "laigh of Moray," these native lords appear also to have had some pretensions to the Scottish crown, and hence to have drawn their followers into repeated ruinous insurrections against the ruling sovereign, which ended in a most extraordinary exercise of power (scarcely to be credited, were it not confirmed by undoubted authorities)—the almost total expulsion and extermination of the inhabitants by King Malcolm IV., in the year 1161, and the settling of a colony of strangers, chiefly Flemings, in their stead (See Chambers' Caledonia, and Preface to the Registrum Moravien). Hence the curious association in Moray, and partly at Inverness, of Gaelic names of places, with such surnames of persons as Barbour, Brodie, Cant, Cowper, Duff, Dunbar, Fleming, Forsyth, Hay, Innes, Peterkyn, Russell, Reid, Suter, Wilson, Wyat, Wiseman; and hence the reason of the comparatively modern Highland maxim regarding Moray, as usurped by the *Sassanach*, and as therefore a "land where all men may take their prey."

ROUTE THIRD.—BRANCH A.

INVERNESS TO THE FIELD OF THE BATTLE OF CULLODEN, TO CLAVA, CASTLES DALCROSS, KILRAVOCK, AND CAWDOR, TO FORT GEORGE, AND TO THE FINDHORN.

Roads; Castle Stewart; Campbelltown; Fort-George; Cross Road to Cawdor Castle, paragraph 1.—Battle of Culloden, or Drummossie Moor; Nature of the Ground, 2.

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Disposition of the Forces, and Battle, 3.—Charge of the Highlanders, and their final overthrow, 4.—Stone Monuments on the Plain of Clava, 5.—Great Boulder Stone or *Tomriach*, 6.—Dalcross Castle, 7.—Kilravock Castle, 8.—Holme and Cantray, 9.—Cawdor or Calder Castle, 10.—Thanes of Cawdor, History of, 11.—History of the Castle, and Clan Conflict, 12.—Family Traditions, 13.—Scenery; Oak Wood of Cawdor, 14.—Roads to Dulsie, and the Banks of the Findhorn and Strathspey, 15.—Raits Castle, 16.

	Miles.
Inverness to Fort-George	13
Fort-George to Cawdor Inn	9
Cawdor, by Cantray and the Moor of Culloden, to Inverness	15
	37

1. A VERY interesting day's excursion from Inverness may be enjoyed, by going to breakfast at Campbelltown (12 miles) or Fort-George (13 miles), examining Castle Stewart (described page 360) by the way, and then proceeding to Cawdor Castle (7 miles) by the military way from the garrison, which runs nearly due south, to a bridge over the river Nairn, from which Cawdor inn is distant 2 miles to the eastward, and returning in the evening to Inverness by Cantray and the Moor of Culloden, or Dalcross Castle; or by reversing this order, and returning by Fort-George.

The stage to Campbelltown and Fort-George, and the character of the country backwards to the woods of Cawdor, have already been described (Route III. p. 360); and if the tourist does not mean to visit Fort-George, but to proceed direct to Cawdor without returning to Inverness, his best course is either to proceed along the Nairn post-road, beyond the point where it severs from the Fort-George road,* for 2 miles, when a good cross-road will be found leading directly south-east over the ridge of the Leys, past Dalcross Castle to Cantray, where it crosses the river Nairn; or if he keep the north side—the better road of the two—at the intersection of the Culloden Moor road, the route lies along the latter north-eastwards by Croy Church and Kilravock, and joins the military way at Clephanton; or he may keep the Nairn post-road all the way till it meets the military one at Breachley, 9½ miles from Inverness, and then turn south alongst it. If, on the other hand, the tourist is inclined to proceed by the Moor of Culloden, he takes the great Perth road for the first 3 miles, and immediately behind the house of Castlehill, and past Inshes Porter's Lodge, he will find a district road proceeding eastward, which passes

* Four and a-half miles from Inverness.

through the field of battle, and proceeds thence along the ridge between Dalcross Castle and Cantray. Cawdor, by this route, is 15 miles from Inverness. Between Cawdor and Craggy Inn a pretty good road leads along the south bank of the river Nairn, which the pedestrian or horseman can attain by proceeding due south from the spot where the battle of Culloden was fought, whereby he will come across the stone monuments of Clava by the way ; but wheeled carriages will find it difficult to reach the road on the south bank, through the rough fords of the Nairn. The pedestrian can cross it at the wooden bridge of Culdoich above Clava, and by thus gaining the south bank, he will not only considerably shorten the distance from Inverness, but command the best views of Cantray, Holme, and Kilravock Castle, which are passed 2 or 3 miles lower down.

BATTLE OF CULLODEN OR DRUMMOSSIE MOOR.

2. So much has been written on the battle of Culloden, where closed the rebellion of 1745-6, that we shall trouble our readers only with a very short notice of it. It is quite evident that no Highland troops should have fought there, even though their object was to protect and cover Inverness, especially when opposed by horse and artillery : and it seems equally certain that there was something worse than foolishness among the leaders when they perilled their cause on an open heath, while a rough and hilly country lay so near them. Had the rebel army also fallen on the Duke of Cumberland's camp at Nairn, the previous night, as was attempted, they would have found him prepared ; for the Duke's Highlanders had mixed in the ranks of their adversaries during the march, and sent intelligence every half hour of their approach.

A monumental tumulus or obelisk on the heath, lately begun, marks the spot where the contest was fiercest ; and the public road passes through the graves of the slain, which consist of two or three grass-covered mounds, rising slightly above the adjoining heath, at the distance of about 200 or 300 yards from some corn land and a cluster of cottages, where the English artillery took up its position, a slight marshy hollow intervening between them and the Highland army. The spot is about six miles distant from Inverness. On all sides the near prospect is bleak and dreary ; while the general smoothness of

the ground points it out as favourable for the movements of cavalry and artillery, but proportionably ill adapted for the protection or defence of the foot soldier. Such is the nature of the ground on which Prince Charles Edward ventured to peril his cause against the disciplined troops of England. His army was drawn up a little to the west of the graves, in a line from south to north, right across the moor inclining towards the parks of Culloden House.

3. Exhausted with hunger and fatigue, dispersed, and buried in sleep in the neighbouring hamlets and enclosures, very many of the Highland army could not possibly be present at this battle. Some had gone to Inverness for food; others had not joined, as many had been permitted to retire to their homes during the winter season; and, of those who had just taken up arms, the Macphersons of Badenoch were but that day (16th of April 1746) on their march from the interior to the camp at Inverness. The right of the Prince's front line was composed of the Athole men and Camerons; in the centre stood the Frasers, Mackintoshes, Maclachlans, and Macleans; on the left, the Stewarts, Farquharsons, and the three Macdonald regiments, commanded by the chiefs, Clanranald, Keppoch, and Glengarry. Behind, and towards the right of the second line were Lord Ogilvie's, Lord Lewis Gordon's and the Duke of Perth's regiments, diminished to very small companies, but supported on the left by the Irish pickets. A few horse were stationed in rear of the right wing, and on the gradually ascending ground behind these stood Prince Charles and his French and Irish counsellors. The declivity of the moor towards the house of Culloden, being soft and marshy, rendered it somewhat unfit for the movements of cavalry; while the right of the rebel position was slightly defended by a stone wall enclosing a young plantation. The Duke of Cumberland advanced from the north-east along the hill in a line from Dalcross Castle, his object being to force his way to Inverness. After remaining patiently in their ranks for some time, and being galled most dreadfully by the enemy's artillery, the centre of the rebel troops rushed forward to the attack, and repulsed Munro's and Birrel's regiments, which were opposed to them. The right wing at the same moment advanced, but were almost immediately turned by the English cavalry, who attacked them in flank through openings made by their infantry

(especially the Argyleshire Highlanders) in the stone dyke. This last manœuvre was observed by the Prince, who, instead of placing himself at the head of the reserve, and charging in person, to counteract its effect, contented himself with sending repeated orders to Lord George Murray, which that accomplished general either never received or could not at the moment execute. A body of 100 Highlanders, stationed within the enclosure above alluded to, was cut to pieces without offering any resistance, and the right wing being thus in consequence broken, the fate of the day was determined. The Clan Chattan, or M'Intosh regiment, stood the firmest, and were almost totally annihilated.

The left wing, formed of the Macdonalds, did not behave with their accustomed bravery, as they had taken umbrage at not having the post of honour on the right assigned them, to which they conceived themselves entitled. In truth, the main body of the army was routed without firing a shot, and they had little else to do than to keep in a body and make good their way unmolested to the hills. The Frasers retired in their ranks with pipes playing: one great body of the rebels moved off in a southern direction towards Badenoch, but those who fled towards the plains about Inverness were hotly pursued by the dragoons, and the carnage ceased not till within half a mile of the town. Prince Charles, acting early on the memorable sentiment, "Sauve qui peut," rode off toward Stratherrick, and slept that night at Gortuleg. The ash-tree whence he beheld the battle still stands, and the less perishable boulder-stone, from which, it is said, the Duke of Cumberland issued his orders, is shewn by the road-side, about a quarter of a mile east from the principal heap of graves.

4. Never was the peculiar and irresistible power of a charge of Highlanders more fearlessly displayed than in this their last feudal engagement on their native hills. "It was the emphatic custom," says Mr. Chambers, in his History of the Rebellion of 1745, "before an onset, to *scrug their bonnets*, that is, to pull their little blue caps down over their brows, so as to ensure them against falling off in the ensuing *melee*. Never, perhaps, was this motion performed with so much emphasis as on the present occasion, when every man's forehead burned with the desire to revenge some dear friend who had fallen a victim to the murderous artillery. A Lowland gentleman, who was in

the line, and who survived till a late period, used always, in relating the events of Culloden, to comment with a feeling of something like awe upon the terrific and more than natural expression of rage which glowed on every face, and gleamed in every eye, as he surveyed the extended line at this moment. It was an exhibition of mighty and all-engrossing passion, never to be forgotten by the beholder.

"The action and event of the onset were throughout quite as dreadful as the mental emotion which urged it. Notwithstanding that the three files of the front line of English poured forth their incessant fire of musketry—notwithstanding that the cannon, now loaded with grape-shot, swept the field as with a hail-storm—notwithstanding the flank fire of Wolfe's regiment—onward, onward went the headlong Highlanders, flinging themselves into, rather than rushing upon, the lines of the enemy, which, indeed, they did not see for smoke till involved among their weapons. All that courage, all that despair could do, was done. They did not fight like living or reasoning creatures, but like machines under the influence of some uncontrollable principle of action. The howl of the advance, the scream of the onset, the thunders of the musketry, and the din of the trumpets and drums, confounded one sense; while the flash of the fire-arms and the glitter of the brandished broadswords dazzled and bewildered another. It was a moment of dreadful and agonising suspense—but only a moment; for the whirlwind does not reap the forest with greater rapidity than the Highlanders cleared the line. They swept through and over that frail barrier, almost as easily and instantaneously as the bounding cavalcade brushes through the morning labours of the gossamer which stretch across its path. Not, however, with the same unconsciousness of the event. Almost every man in their front rank, chief and gentleman, fell before the deadly weapons which they had braved; and although the enemy gave way, it was not till every bayonet was bent and bloody with the strife.

"When the first line had been completely swept aside, the assailants continued their impetuous advance, till they came near the second, when, being almost annihilated by a profuse and well-directed fire, the shattered remains of what had been but an hour before a numerous and confident force, at last submitted to destiny, by giving way and flying. Still a few rushed

on, resolved rather to die than thus forfeit their well-acquired and dearly-estimated honour. They rushed on; but not a man ever came in contact with the enemy. The last survivor perished as he reached the points of the bayonets."

According to the general accounts, there were but 1200 men killed in this engagement, and as many on the English as on their opponents' side. The wounded were left three days on the field, and such as then survived were shot by the order of the Duke of Cumberland. He set fire to a barn, to which many of them had retired. In the town of Inverness he instituted a complete military government; treated the inhabitants and magistrates with contempt; and he was afterwards obliged to sue out an act of indemnity from the British Parliament for these and other atrocities, of which it is notoriously known he was guilty. Prince Charles' resources, notwithstanding the loss of this battle, were by no means desperate. Eight thousand men were ready to meet him at Ruthven, in Badenoch, had he signified his desire to attempt the battle-strife over again; but, after some days' deliberation, his only answer to the chiefs who awaited him there was, "Let every man seek his safety in the best way he can."

ANCIENT STONE MONUMENTS AT CLAVA.

5. The most splendid series of circles and cairns, existing together in one place on the eastern side of the island, occurs on a meadow plain on the south bank of the river Nairn, about one mile south-east of the field where the battle of Culloden was fought; and no tourist should omit a visit to them, which will cost but a short walk while his horse rests. A rustic bridge crosses the river, immediately below the graves. The surface of the plain is in one part rough, and strewed over with boulder-stones; but in general it forms a portion of a soft pastoral valley; and the view at either end is terminated by two prominent hills, one of which (Dun-Evan) has on its summit a structure strongly vitrified; and on the other (Dun-Daviot) is a similar fortified site, but which, however, has not been affected by fire. Even at the first sight of this plain, one is prompted to exclaim—"Here is a city of the dead!" Its whole extent is covered with cairns, encompassed by circles of large upright stones, or slabs of sandstone.

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Among these are several circles of large dimensions unconnected with cairns, and others of a smaller size, scarcely elevated a foot above the ground, occur in the intervals between the greater ones. Stones of memorial, or single columns, are perceived in several parts of the field, apparently in a line with one another, and uniting the other structures into one general design; and what is also remarkable, near the west end of the plain is seen an oblong square, which is called the "Clachan" or church, and which is believed to be the foundations of an ancient Christian chapel. Perhaps it may have been one of the earliest in the country; and it thus appears most strikingly and appropriately placed in the midst of pagan structures, the dark superstitious rites of which its founders were anxious to expose and abolish. Within this enclosure, children, who die in the neighbourhood before baptism, are still buried.

But the most remarkable of these antiquities on the plain of Clava are three great cairns, consisting of loose stones piled up in one of them to the height of fifteen feet, and having each a ring of upright stones hemming in and supporting their bases; another circle of large masses of sandstone (ten or twelve stones in each), at the distances of several paces from the inner structure, is attached to each cairn. Two of these cemeteries appear to have been much injured by the partial removal of the stones; but the principal one was opened some years ago under the directions of a lady in the neighbourhood, and it displayed beneath the exterior pile a circular chamber, about five yards in diameter, lined at the base with a ring of fourteen large stones in an upright position, and surmounted by courses of uncemented masonry, the stones of which incline inwards, and overlap one another, so as to have met at the top in a rude dome. This apartment has an entrance looking towards the south, with a passage two feet wide, and flanked by great stones, conducting from it through the body of the cairn, to its exterior circumference. Eighteen inches below the floor of the cell, were discovered two small earthen vases or urns of the coarsest workmanship, but containing calcined bones. The urns were unfortunately broken, and the ashes scattered about in a small bed of prepared clay on which they lay. This structure is precisely similar, though on a smaller scale, to that at New Grange, near Drogheda, in the county of Meath, Ireland,

figured in Mr. Higgins' Celtic Druids, plates 20, 21 ; and Archæl. Soc. Antiq. London, vol. ii. p. 254.

6. About a mile east of Clava, is an enormous boulder mass of conglomerate, called *Tomriach*, which rests on a bed of gravel, in which, at one time, it was likely embedded. It is about thirty feet long, and fourteen high, and at a little distance may be mistaken for a Highland cottage, which it resembles in size and form. It is well worthy of a visit, especially by the geologist.

DALCROSS OR DACUS CASTLE.

7. This building, which lies two miles north-east of the field of Culloden, consists of two towers, joined at right angles; the inner corner, where they meet, being covered with a projecting turret and large entrance gate. Many of the appurtenances of an old baronial residence are here still entire, and therefore to the antiquary the place is of considerable interest. Water is still raised from a deep draw-well in the front court. The windows are all stancheoned with iron. The huge oaken door, studded with large nails, and the inner iron gratings, still turn on their rusty hinges. The kitchen, with its enormous vaulted chimney, like the arch of a bridge ; the dungeons, and the hall, are quite entire. The ceiling of the latter is of fine carved oak, in part rudely painted; but its most interesting feature is the *dais*, or portion of the floor raised above the rest, for the special use of the lord of the manor, his family, and principal guests. The roof of one of the bed-rooms was painted all over with the coats of arms of the principal families in the country, and those of Robert Bruce, of the Earls of Huntly, Marischal, and Stuart, are still quite distinct. This castle was built in 1620, by Simon, eighth Lord Lovat. The property had long been in the family, but previously, we believe, was a portion of the M'Intosh estates. It afterwards came to Sir James Fraser of Brea, third son of the founder, who gave it as a marriage portion with his daughter Jean to a Major Bateman. The Major sold it to James Roy Dunbar, bailie of Inverness, from whom Mackintosh of Mackintosh purchased it in 1702, and with his descendants it still remains. Dalcross was a vicarage depending on the Priory of Urquhart, and in the year 1343 there was an agreement between the prior and the

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Baron of Kilravock, that the Vicar of Dean-an-Ross, now Dalcross, should officiate in the private chapel of Kilravock. The minister of the parish of Croy has still part of his glebe near the castle. Sir Lauchlan Mackintosh of that Ilk died here in 1704; and the last additions to the building appear to have been made about that period. The present chief has begun to restore the edifice.

KILRAVOCK CASTLE.

8. The family of the Roses of Kilravock, anciently one of the most powerful in the north, have still to boast of an old tower, the next in our course, and a range of castellated buildings in an imposing situation overhanging the Nairn. The series of old paintings, armour, and writings, in the house is considerable; and one of the manuscripts, a curious old diary by the successive tutors or chaplains of the family, has lately been published by the Spalding Club. The Roses came into possession of Kilravock about 1280. They owed it to an alliance with the powerful family of the Bissets, once pre-eminent in the north. Sir John Bisset left three daughters, heirs-portioners. The first brought the estate of Lovat to the Frasers, the second (designed the lady of Beaufort) married William de Fenton, whose posterity continued for several descents; and the third daughter, Elizabeth, was married to Sir Andrew de Bosco, an English or Norman knight. This Elizabeth Bisset, or de Bosco, had a daughter, Marie, who was married to Hugh de Rose, then owner of Easter Geddes. Hugh Rose, the seventh baron of the name, built the tower of Kilravock, having obtained license by patent to do so from John, Lord of the Isles, 18th February 1460, which was confirmed in 1475 by King James III. It is handed down by tradition, that the towers of Calder, Ironside, Dallas, and Spynie, were built about the same time; and that the architect was Cochrane, the minion of James III., whom that monarch created Earl of Mar, and who was afterwards hanged over Lauder Bridge in July 1482. The iron gate of Kilravock tower was made in the time of the tenth laird, named Hugh, the "Black Baron," who died in 1597 at the extreme age of 90 years. He entertained Queen Mary in his tower, her Majesty's bed-room, which is still in its original state, having no fire-place in it, nor was it lathed or plastered, while the floor consisted of great coarse boards roughly sawn

and nailed together. The gate weighed 34 stone 3 lbs., and cost £34 : 3 : 9 Scots! For this sum the maker of it, George Robertson, smith in Elgin, granted receipt 5th February 1568, receiving, also, three bolls of meal, one stone of butter, and one of cheese. This gate was removed by the English in the wars of Cromwell.

The representative of this ancient race did effectual service to the cause of Government in the rebellion of 1715; and their history presents the singular aspect of an unbroken male descent retaining their baronial state, without the support of any clan of their name, in the midst of jealous and ferocious neighbours. Their residence is one of the most picturesque in the country; a square old keep, with a long range of high-roofed additions to it, perched on a rocky bank overlooking the river Nairn, and surrounded with dense woods and tall "ancestral trees." The principal additions are said to have been designed by Inigo Jones, and the elegant proportions of the public rooms are not unworthy of his name. The gardens and pleasure-grounds are laid out with very great taste, and the lady (Mrs. Campbell), who at present occupies the castle, has spared no expense in supplying the finest and rarest shrubs and flowers, and adding in every way to the comforts and elegance of the place.

9. Immediately above Kilravock, is the property of Holme (General Sir John Rose), which is also distinguished for its woods and fine gardens; and next, up the river's course, is the property of Cantray (—— Davidson), formerly belonging to a family of the name of Dallas, where a fine old French chateau has lately been supplanted by a modern residence, and which estate marches with the properties of Culloden and M'Intosh of M'Intosh.

CAWDOR (ANCIENTLY CALDER) CASTLE.

10. If the name of this castle be not sufficient to excite curiosity, the beauties of its situation, the freshness in which all its appurtenances of ancient feudal gloom and grandeur and means of defence remain, will amply recompense the tourist for the trouble he may be put to in visiting it.

Perched upon a low rock, overhanging the bed of a Highland torrent, and surrounded on all sides by the largest-sized forest-trees, which partly conceal the extent of its park, it

stands a relic of the work of several ages, a weather-beaten tower, encircled by comparatively newer and less elevated dwellings, the whole being enclosed within a moat, and approachable only by a drawbridge, which rattles on its chains just as in the years long gone by. This castle is still inhabited; the staircase, the iron-grated doors and wickets, the large baronial kitchen, partly formed out of the native rock, the hall, the old furniture, the carved mantel-pieces, the quantity of figured tapestry, and even the grotesque family mirrors, in use 200 years ago, are still cherished and preserved by the family. The drawbridge and gateway are particularly worthy of notice.

11. Tradition in this quarter asserts that good King Duncan was murdered in this castle by his relative Macbeth, who was his sister's son. Some of the old Scottish chronicles, as interpreted by Lord Hailes, refer to a smith's hut in the neighbourhood of Elgin as the place where the mortal blow was given, and render it probable that the unfortunate monarch breathed his last within some of the religious houses then already built there; while Shakspere and his commentators, following the authority of Buchanan, assign Macbeth's castle at Inverness as the scene of the murder. It is, at least, undoubted, that Macbeth may have had strongholds in all the places mentioned, as, on his marriage, he became, in right of his wife Gruoch, Maormor or great Celtic lord of Moray, having by birth the same power attached to that name in the adjoining county of Ross; and that King Duncan was betrayed and slain while residing at one of his nephew's castles, on his way to reduce Torfin, the Scandinavian Jarl of Caithness, to submission, he having refused to surrender the customary tribute to the Scottish crown.

Malcolm (Duncan's eldest son, and afterwards called *Caenmore*, or the *large-headed*) fled, on his father's death, to England, where he was courteously received by the reigning prince, Edward the Confessor; and waiting there till the dissensions betwixt the usurper Macbeth and the Scottish nobles presented him with a favourable opportunity for recovering his inheritance, he at length sallied forth across the border, supported by an English army of ten thousand men, under the command of his own maternal grandfather, Siward, Earl of Northumberland. Macbeth's inveterate foe, the Thane of Fife, raising the standard at the same time for the lawful monarch, entered Angus-

shire, and encountered and defeated his great enemy near his own castle of Dunsinane.

Such is the bare outline of facts on which the deeply exciting tragedy of Macbeth was reared by Shakspere. No such title or person existed at that period as the "Thane of Cawdor;" but there is no question as to Malcolm Caenmore having allotted large estates to the English and Flemish knights who assisted him in recovering his native possessions, and that they thenceforward surnamed themselves after the appellations of the lands thus acquired. Among others, some of the powerful family of Ostiarii, or hereditary *door-wards* of the king, who held large possessions in Mar, seem to have obtained Macbeth's estates in Nairnshire, and, perhaps, by assuming the name of Calder, one of them has since been regarded as the first Thane; the thaneage of Calder, or Cawdor, including (at least in subsequent charters) not only the principal messuage lands, but also the barony of Ferintosh, in Ross, and several parts of Stratherrick, Strathnairn, and Strathdearn, and a large portion of the lands of Glammis in the Mearns, all of which were hence politically, and for several other purposes, considered as *pertinents of the sheriffdom of Nairn*. The original family name of *Hostiarius* or *Ostiarius* (anglice *door-ward*, and afterwards corrupted to the common surname of *Dur-ward*) is mentioned in charters still extant in this castle, and in one especially dated at Forres the 22d July, of the twenty-second year of King Alexander II. (1236), in which his majesty grants the lands of Both and Banchory, in the bailliary of Invernarn "*Gilberto Hostiario*," which words, by a stupid misreading, are marked by a modern scribe on the back as "*Gilberto Horstrat*." Upon this mistake, which was unfortunately copied by Shaw in his valuable History of Moray, a most ridiculous theory has prevailed that the family name at first was *Horstrot*. For many generations, however, the only surname by which the family was known was that of Calder of Calder, now pronounced Cawdor.

At whatever time the title of Thane became common, mention is found of the Thanes of Calder in the records of Nairnshire so early as the year 1295; although, from what has been said, they undoubtedly had possessions there long prior to that date. They were constables of the royal fortress of Nairn, where they chiefly resided; and to this day the constabulary garden in Nairn, partly surrounded with the old castle wall, is the

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property of the family. Hence, Calder must have been a residence of minor importance; and, indeed, the oldest part of the present tower was only built, according to Shaw's History of Moray, in the year 1454. The royal license by James II. is to "William, Thane of Calder, to build and fortify the castle of Calder," with a proviso, that "the said castle shall be always ready and open to his majesty and his successors, and that they should always have free entrance and egress to and from the same."

12. This Thane William, who completed the keep, lived till about the year 1500; his son John married Isobel Rose, daughter of Kilravock, and, dying in 1494, left one posthumous child, a daughter, named Muiriel, or Marion. "Kilravock intended this heiress for his own grandson, her first cousin; but Kilravock being pursued in a criminal process for robbery, in joining Mackintosh in spoiling the lands of Urquhart of Cromarty, Argyle, the Justice-general, made the process easy to him, got the *award* of Muiriel's marriage of the king, A. D. 1495, and she was sent to Inverary in the year 1499. In autumn of that year, Campbell of Inverliver, with sixty men, came to receive the child, on pretence of sending her south to school. The lady Kilravock, her grandmother, that she might not be changed, seared and marked her hip with the key of her coffer. As Inverliver came with little Muiriel to Daltulich, in Strathnairn, he was closely pursued by Alexander and Hugh Calder, her uncles, with a superior party. He sent off the child with an escort of six men, faced about to receive the Calders; and, to deceive them, a sheaf of corn, dressed in some of the child's clothes, was kept by one in the rear. The conflict was sharp, and several were killed, among whom were six of Inverliver's son's. When Inverliver thought the child was out of reach, he retreated, leaving the fictitious child to the Calders. And Inverliver was rewarded with a grant of the £20 land of Inverliver. It is said, that in the heat of the skirmish, Inverliver cried, *'Sfada glaodh o' Lochow, 'Sfada cabhair o' chlan Dhume*, *i. e.* "'Tis a far cry to Loch Awe, and a distant help to the Campbells:"—now a proverb, signifying "*Imminent danger, and distant relief.*" Subsequently (in 1510), this heiress was married to Sir John Campbell, third son of Argyle; and thus the family name of Calder was lost, and the after additions to the castle were reared by the Campbells, whose coats of arms are inserted of the several dates in the walls.

13. An ancient hawthorn tree stood, some years ago, in the old garden towards the inn (on the site of the ancient hostelrie of the demesne); a second stood on the edge of the moat, and fell about ten years ago, when in full leaf, from the weight of a drizzling fall of rain, but from its root a vigorous shoot has sprung up; and a third, still rooted in the earth, is shown in the dungeon of the tower, extending its stem to the ceiling. Tradition relates that the founder was led, either by a dream, or the advice of a wizard, to build this castle at the third hawthorn tree, where an ass laden with a chest of gold should stop: and prosperity to the house of Cawdor is still expressed in the wish. "Freshness to its hawthorn tree."

The bed and chamber in which, according to family legends, Macbeth murdered King Duncan, were till lately shown to strangers; but a fire which broke out some years ago in the great tower destroyed every vestige of them, and nothing but the stone-vaulted roof could have saved the whole building from destruction.

Between the ceiling and the roof of another part of this castle, Lord Lovat was concealed for a short time after the battle of Culloden. When he found it becoming the abode of too many of his enemies, he let himself down from the battlements by a rope, and escaped to Morar, on the west coast, where he was ultimately seized.

Since their union with the family of Argyle, prosperity seems to have attended constantly on the proprietors of Cawdor; and by marriage they have acquired the estates of Stackpole Court, Gogirthen, and Golden Grove, in South Wales, and, under the title of Earl Cawdor, they have recently been elevated to the peerage.

14. The scenery about Cawdor Castle, as already stated, is of the richest and most picturesque description. In the park are several of the largest oaks, sycamores, limes, elms, walnuts, ash, and pine trees in the north of Scotland; one magnificent stem of ash measuring twenty-three feet in circumference at a foot from the ground, and seventeen feet in girth at the distance of six feet from the root. The garden also presents a fine specimen of an ancient yew tree, and the adjoining woods and rocks abound in many interesting plants, deserving the search of the botanist.

About two miles and a half south of the castle, and not far

above the junction of the primitive gneiss with the secondary conglomerate rocks of the district, an ancient lake seems at one time to have covered an elevated piece of flat or boggy ground. It appears to have burst its barrier suddenly, when the mass of rushing waters instantly plunged into the soft sandstone strata, and scooped out for themselves a deep narrow tortuous channel, now the course of the gentle burn which ripples past the castle wall. Another stream joins it from the westward, called the Burn of Auchindown, the sides of which are more open, but scarcely less rocky than the other, which is styled the Hermitage Burn, from an old rustic bower, built on the top of one of its projecting cliffs, the site perhaps, in truth, of some ancient hermit's cell. Nowhere is the tendency of conglomerate rocks to crumble into pyramidal detached masses, or alternate semicircular protuberances and hollows, more beautifully displayed than in the channel of this burn ; and hence the walks cut along its sides wind about in many beautiful curves, exhibiting most picturesque combinations of rock and foliage, with occasional glimpses of the distant plains of Moray and Nairnshire, backed by the bluff Sutors of Cromarty, and the varied outlines of the mountains of Ross and Sutherland. Light airy wooden bridges have also in several places been thrown across, connecting the opposite sides together. The triangular space between the two burns, extending nearly to 520 acres, has also been traversed by walks, which in the whole exceed twelve miles in length, and here they pass through an old oak and beech wood, seldom surpassed in the size, variety, and beauty of its single trees and forest glades. Birch, alder, and hazel, form an outer fringe to the forest, while immense quantities of woodbine, sloe tree, and bushes of juniper, broom, and holly, were entwined together, composing an almost impenetrable brake, till lately opened up by the axe, and judiciously thinned and lined off as native evergreens. They now form ornamental shrubs along the new made walks.

15. We have only to add, that the parish church (formerly the private chapel belonging to the castle) is also worth seeing, on account chiefly of the old inscriptions and curious entrance gate which it contains. The ride to the bridge of Dulsie, on the Findhorn, about eight miles, likewise conducts to some beautifully wooded scenery and waterfalls ; and, in the same direction, the traveller will find the military road leading to

Strathspey, which passes by the very ancient and curious castle of the Cumings, built on an island called Lochindorbh. The old military road to Dulsie Bridge and Strathspey is, however, now impassable for vehicles; and the traveller, wishing to reach this part of the Findhorn or Strathspey, must either follow the Nairn road for four miles, where a district road branches off, conducting across the hill straight to Farness Bridge (twelve miles from Cawdor), on the Findhorn, below Dulsie Bridge, and to the New Inn, fifteen miles from Forres, and thence by a parliamentary road to Grantown; or he may reach the *Streens*, distant nine miles (as to which see page 305), by a new road from the castle, lately made by Earl Cawdor for the use of his tenants. From Dulsie, roads will be found along both banks of the river—that on the north side proceeding through a fine sweep of the old natural pine forest to Ardlach church, whence it passes behind Coulmony, and crosses the Findhorn some four or five miles lower down than Farness, by the bridge of Daltulich, a mile or so above Relugas on the Divie. A district road has also been formed from Cawdor by Keppernoch, connecting with the Farness road, and which shortens the distance by three miles.

16. Two miles east of Cawdor, and near the House of Geddes, are the ruins of Raits Castle, anciently the seat of the Macintoshes of Raits. According to Shaw's History of Moray, this castle also at one time belonged to a Rait of that Ilk, who having killed Andrew, Thane of Calder, about the year 1404, was banished from the district, but afterwards founded the family of Rait of Halgreen in the Mearns. The castellated part is gone, but a religious edifice, apparently of a more modern date than it could have been, remains. At the south corner it is terminated by a round tower (lately formed into a dovecot) resembling those attached to the bishop's palace at Kirkwall in Orkney, and Spynie in Morayshire. The arches and windows in other parts of this building are pointed, light, and elegantly finished.

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SECTION VII.

ROUTE IV.

INVERNESS TO TAIN, GOLSPIE, WICK, THURSO, AND JOHN-O'-GROAT'S.

The Aird; Clachnaharry; Geological Note, 1.—Loch Beauly; Bunchrew, 2.—Phopachy; Kirkhill; Moniack, 3.—Valley of the Beauly, 4.—Priory, 5.—Muir of Ord; Stone Pillars; Cilie Christ; Brahan; Conon House, 6.—Dingwall, 7.—Evantown Balcony; Novar; Clan Munro, 8.—Ferrindonald and Easter Ross, 9.—Short road from Alness; Ardross, 10.—Upper road to Tain; Invergordon Castle; Kincraig, &c.; Poor's House, 11.—Invergordon; Coast Villages; Tarbat House, 12.—Balnagown Castle, 13.—Aultgraat; Tain; St. Duthus' Chapel and Church; Monastery of Fearn; Tain Academy; Excursion to Tarbet Ness and Fearn; Agricultural Improvements, foot-note, 14.—Meikle Ferry; Bonar Bridge; Ardross, 15.—Enter on Sutherland; Dun Creich; Spinningdale; Ospisdale; Skibo; Clashmore, 16.—Dornoch; Geyzen Briggs; Palace and Cathedral; Burning for Witchcraft; Links, 17.—Tumuli; Stone Coffins and Cairns, 18.—Little Ferry; Mound; Loch Fleet; Skelbo Castle, 19.—Improvements, 20.—Golspie; Dunrobin Castle, 21.—The Catti; History of the Earls of Sutherland, footnote; Brora Quarries; Coal Basin; Geology, 22.—Strath and Loch Kilcalmkill; Cole's Castle, 23.—Loth; Port Gower; Helmsdale, 24.—The Ord of Caithness; Dunbeath, 25.—General Features of Caithness; Improvements, 26.—Braal Castle; Oldwick Castle, 27.—Wick and Thurso; Herring Fishery, Account of; Wick and Pultneytown, 28.—History of Caithness, foot-note; District Road to Houna and John-o'-Groat's House; Old Castles, Horrible Stories of; Battle of Alt-a-Mhairlich, 29.—Houna; John-o'-Groat's House; Duncansby, 30.—Pentland Firth, Detention of Vessels, and Dangers of, 31, and foot-note.—Houna to Thurso; Improvements; Peasantry; Pavement Quarries, 32.—Thurso Bay; Holburn Head; The Clett, 33.

		Miles.	Miles.
Bogroy			7
Beauly		5½	12½
Dingwall		9	21½
Dingwall by Kessock Ferry 13 miles, difference 8½; see next Branch.			
Evantown	7		
Allness	4		
Invergordon	2¾	13¾	35¼
Tain		11¾	47
Bonar Bridge		18¾	60¾
Bonar Bridge from Dingwall across the hill behind Allness, 25 miles, difference 14, viz., from Allness to Stittenham Inn	5		
Bonar Bridge	10		
Clashmore		10½	71¼
Clashmore from Tain, by Meikle Ferry, 9¼, difference 15.			
Meikle Ferry to Dornoch	5		

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	Miles.	Miles.
Golspie	14	85¼
Port Gower	14¾	100
Berridale	11¼	111¾
Swiney	12½	124¼
Wick	15	139¼
(District road to Houna and John-o'-Groat's 21 miles.)		
Thurso	20¾	160

Conveyances.

Mail, a four-horse coach to Tain, and a two-horse coach hence to Thurso, starts from Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, every morning.

Duke of Wellington, by Beauly, to Dingwall and Strathpeffer (two-horse coach), runs daily in summer from Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, and back the same day (hours vary).

Mail Gig from Dingwall to Loch Carron and Skye (see Branch c. to this route).

Carriers every Tuesday and Friday from Inverness to Beauly, and to Dingwall by Kessock; and on the same days another carrier goes between Dingwall and Tain.

The London and Leith Steamers from Inverness call at Invergordon; and the Rothesay Castle leaves Kessock Ferry every Monday and Thursday morning, for the ports on the Moray Firth and the Little Ferry in Sutherlandshire, returning every succeeding day (see page 203).

1. One mile from Inverness, the road, after crossing the Caledonian Canal, (as to which see pp. 133 to 147,) leads suddenly westward: and quitting the valley of the Ness, instantly presents to our view the expanse of Loch Beauly, with a great portion of the Aird, the richest and most beautiful district in the county, and the land of the clan Fraser. Between the road and the sea is the straggling village of Clachnaharry, which is inhabited by fishermen and boat-builders, and derives its name from the rough impending rocks to the westward, (Clach-na herrie, or the Watchman's seat or stone,) where, in days of yore, the burghers of Inverness found it necessary to station a sentinel to give notice of the approach of the Reivers of Ross, or the marauding clans of the west coast.

Mr. Duff, the late proprietor of Muirtown, erected, on the highest pinnacle of the rock, a neat column, visible all over the surrounding country, commemorative of a battle fought at this place in the year 1378 (according to the Historie of the Earldom of Sutherland, 1333), between the Munroes of Foulis and the Clan Chattan. It is thus described by a late writer:—"The

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Munroes, a distinguished tribe of Ross, returning from an inroad they had made in the south of Scotland, passed by Moyhall, the seat of Macintosh, leader of the clan Chattan ; a share of the booty, or road-collop, payable to a chief for traversing his dominions, was demanded and acceded to ; but Macintosh's avaricious spirit coveting the whole, his proposal met with contempt, and Macintosh summoned his vassals to extort compliance. The Munroes, pursuing their journey, forded the river Ness, a little above the island, and despatched the cattle they had plundered across the hill of Kinmylies, to Lovat's province. Their enemy came up to them at the point of Clachnahayre, and immediately joined battle : the conflict was such as might have been expected from men excited to revenge by a long and inveterate enmity. Quarter was neither sought nor granted : after an obstinate struggle, Macintosh was killed. The survivors of his band retraced their steps to their own country. John Munro, tutor of Fowlis, was left for dead upon the field ; his kinsmen were not long of retaliating. Having collected a sufficient force, they marched in the dead of the night for the Isle of Moy, where the chief of the Macintoshes resided. By the aid of some planks which they had carried with them, and now put together, they crossed to the isle, and glutted their thirst for revenge, by the murder or captivity of all the inmates."—(*Anderson's Historical Account of the Family of Fraser*, p. 54.)*

* The geologist could not begin an examination of the rocks of this district better than at this point of Clachnaharry. He there, immediately to the westward of the little monument above mentioned, finds an *anticlinal axis*, caused by an outburst of granite among the *old red sandstone* strata, and its coarse conglomerate, which are thrown in opposite directions, at a high angle, dipping *east* and *west*. About half-a-mile farther on, where a quarry was opened for the Caledonian Canal, the sandstone will be found tilted up almost vertically, and waved and contorted in the most intricate manner, like curved gneiss. In some places it is *hardened* and *shattered* into small tabular masses, the layers being occasionally separated by thin seams of *foliated celestine* The granite here does not crop out, but the altered character of the sandstone indicates its vicinity, as does its upheaved and shattered condition in the adjoining hills of Craig Phadrick (about 500 feet) and Dunean (about 1000 feet) ; and in the high rough ridge, immediately to the westwards, which subsides into the sea at Phopachy, the granite comes out in mass, being united without any interruption with the great central deposits of that rock, which compose almost all the mountains on the west side of Loch Ness, between Urquhart Bay and Dochfour. The Great Glen itself, indeed, is most likely a valley of *depression* caused by the uprising of the enormous granitic walls which line it on both sides, the extent of the upheaval being still in some degree measurable by the height of the great sandstone top or dome of Mealfourvoume, which is a mass of sandstone conglomerate, about 1500 feet deep, resting on a granitic precipice of about the same depth, which is beautifully exhibited at Aultsigh, on Loch Ness side. Between the lower end of this lake and the sea, the granite neucleus is crusted over with the old red sandstone, but so thin that the crystaline rock is frequently exposed as at Clachnaharry, Kirkhill, and other places along the Beauly Firth ; but pursuing the general bearing of the granite axis towards the north-east across the firth, we find it again cropping out in mass at

2. Although it has received a separate name, the quiet and sequestered basin of Loch Beauly is but the inner portion of the Moray Firth, from the western corner of which it branches off; the ferry of Kessock forming the connecting strait. Tra-

Avoch, and thence forming the greater portion of the high ridge running behind Fortrose and Rosemarkie, to the Sutors of Cromarty, where extensive sections of it (as a granitic gneiss) are again displayed in the sea cliffs. Again, at the point of Clachnaharry, the observer has beautifully presented to him the terraces of the *drift gravel*, which are here seen encompassing both sides of the Beauly and Moray Firths, and extending up the valley of the Ness. At the lower end of the canal basin, the gravel bed was cut (near the engineer's houses) to a considerable depth, and reaching to the *boulder-clay* beneath it, and on the top of the bank just above this opening, some of the largest erratic blocks in the neighbourhood may be seen. Those blocks, though in this place conglomerates of the adjoining hill, in general, around Inverness, belonged originally to the crystalline masses of the Great Glen; and in Rossshire, as far eastwards as Tain and Tarbat Ness, a peculiar coarse yellowish gneiss is abundantly strewn over the surface, while to the east of Inverness, the beautiful porphorytic flesh-coloured granite of Cawdor and Ardclach, is scattered still farther east over all Morayshire.

We refer to Chambers' "Sea Margins" for minute descriptions and sections of the gravel beds about Inverness, and cannot sum up this sketch better than in the words of the Rev. J. G. Cumming, Vice-Principal of King William's College, Isle of Man, in the Report of his Paper in the Geological Society's Transactions for April 1849, on the "Tertiary Deposits of the Moray Firth and the Great Caledonian Valley," to which we shall afterwards refer in connexion with the deposits of Moray and Sutherland shires. (See also p. 344.)

"The conclusions to which my examination hitherto (says Mr. C.) of the phenomena connected with the newer pleiocene gravels, sands, and clays, has led me, may be thus briefly summed up, viz.:—

"That at the commencement of the period of the boulder-clay, the relative level of the sea and land in the British Isles was not *greatly* different from what it now is, and that the main features of the country had been already assumed.

"That a great current, originating probably in the union of a north-polar current, with a modification of the present gulf-stream, was constantly setting in upon the northern and western shores of Great Britain and Ireland, with a climate of an arctic or subarctic character.

"That a gradual submergence of the area of the British Isles took place to the extent, in some parts, of at least 1600 feet, and subsequently a gradual emergence of the same extent.

"That the *former* event is chronicled by the scratched rocks and boulders of the true boulder-clay series; the *latter* is marked by the more elevated terraces or lower extended platforms of *rolled* boulders and gravel, which are in many instances a redistribution in great part of the materials of the boulder-clay, sometimes regularly stratified.

"That during the uprising the more rigorous conditions of the climate were modified, and erratics from more distant localities were dropped, upon the grounding and deliquescence of icebergs, whilst the scratching and grooving action of littoral ice in a great measure ceased.

"That the upheaval of the great terrace, which in the neighbourhood of Inverness rises from 90 to 120 feet above the sea, and from 30 to 130 feet on the east and west coasts of Great Britain and the Isle of Man, marks the period of the last great change in the physical conditions of the country during the glacial epoch.

"That after this upheaval, and the consequent union of the British isles with each other and with the continent of Europe, the sea has, through a vastly lengthened period, quietly eaten back its way into the drift-gravel platform, and again separated these countries.

"This might be accompanied with a gradual depression again to a certain extent, so that the forests which had grown upon the lower alluvial grounds and valleys, cut out of the drift-gravel, were submerged.

"This depression, as indicated by inland cliffs and water-worn caves, was probably to the extent of from fifteen to twenty feet, compared with the present high-water

velling along its low swelling shores, the stranger, though in a country truly Highland, meets with an unexpected source of pleasure in the freshness of the sea breeze, and in finding the signs of maritime life so far inland, where he looked only for the repose of alpine heaths and valleys. Local tradition indeed maintains that the whole basin was a pastoral strath as far down as Fort-George, till about the period of the upheaval on the English coast of the Goodwin Sands. The daily increasing breadth of the sloping cultivated grounds, the frequent masses of wood, the number of gentlemen's seats and farm-houses with which the margin of the firth is studded, the flocks of waterfowl, the fishing-boats, and the occasional appearance of vessels holding up their course towards the mountains, give to this hill-encircled sheet of water, and the drive on either side of it, a cheerfulness and air of active life not usually attendant on Highland scenery. The more distant mountains at the same time are truly alpine ; the huge form of Ben Wyvis occupying the northern background, while, to the west, the lofty, massive, but sharper outlined Benevachart and the heights of Strathglass and Strathconon uprear a continuous serrated mountain screen along the horizon.

Three miles from Inverness we reach the wooded promontory of Bunchrew (John Fraser, Esq.), formerly an old and favourite retreat of the family of Culloden, especially of the celebrated Lord President Forbes.

3. The traveller now enters upon the possessions of Lord Lovat; and on the next promontory, jutting out into the sea, he will perceive the house of Phopachy, the former residence of an old branch of his clan—ancestors of the Frasers of Torbreck.

Here a new section of the district, called the Aird,* presents itself; the firth at the same time contracting, and exposing more distinctly to our view the sandy beach and low Carse lands at its head, with the Castles of Kilcoy and Redcastle, the manse of Killearnan, and the house of Tarradale on the Ross-shire coast. The country more near is of the richest description. Corn fields occupy the sides and middle of an open strath extending from a line of hills on the south to the margin of the sea, and bounded on the north-west by a gentle

level, so that a subsequent elevation has left in sheltered situations a low line of beach rising from the present sea level to the base of the pleistocene cliffs inland, often forming rich alluvial tracts on what were formerly the sands of wider estuaries."

* There are three distinguished airds or heights in this quarter, Ardross, between the Cromarty and Dornoch firths; Ardmeanach, or the Priest's Aird, the Black Isle, in Ross; and Ard MacShemie, or Lovat's Aird.

sloping ridge which rises from the bank of the river Beauly. This ridge is crowned with luxuriant woods; among which are the mansion-houses and policies of several proprietors, most of them heads of the different branches of the clan Fraser.

From Bogroy a cross-road conducts to the gates of the several seats just alluded to, and to the church and manse of Kirkhill; and a branch of the same line is continued over the hill to Beauly. On the summit of the hill, behind the manse, stood the old church of Wardlaw, or the watching-hill of the district. "The Chapel," as it is called, which occupies the locale of that building, has long been the burying-place of the Lovat family, and of the cadets nearest to them in blood; the walls are hung round with escutcheons and tablets of many generations, and the monuments of the Lords Thomas and Simon Fraser of Lovat are particularly worthy of notice. Around the chapel the poorer vassals of the clan, and the other inhabitants of the parish, inter their dead. Resuming our course along the post road, in less than a mile's distance from Bogroy, we pass the houses of Easter and Wester Moniack—the former belonging to J. B. Fraser, Esq. of Relig, the accomplished author and Eastern traveller, and the latter to Lord Lovat. The hills above the first residence, and along the deeply channelled and romantic burn of Moniack, are clothed with magnificent woods, both planted and natural, and nourished under the eye of the proprietor, whose garden contains the finest groups of cedars in this country. The road thence leads us for a mile and a half along the Moss of Conan, recently a deep quagmire, the haunt of the snipe and bittern, but now rapidly changing, under the influence of drainage and the plough, into a beautiful cultivated valley: beyond it, on the left, rises a semicircular range of pine-clad hills, which conducts the eye to the oak and larch plantations of Phoinas and Belladrum, but of which one bare and rocky peak rising above the rest is called Castle Spynie; which is surmounted by a walled structure partly vitrified.

4. Another bend of the road, and the magnificent valley of the Beauly bursts on the sight; here a plain nearly circular, and almost two miles wide, traversed by a broad sweeping river, encompassed by a ring of high-terraced banks, which, as they approach near one another towards the west, lead the eye to the gorge of a rocky opening, down which the waters pour, which form the picturesque Falls of Kilmorack. The surface of the

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plain, and of the terraced ground by which it is encircled, and the sides of the hills which slope down to both, are elegantly chequered with cultivated fields, and dense woods of birch and fir; and above them, the brown and rugged heights of Strathglass and Glenstrathfarar rise in the western sky, the peaked and snow-clad summit of Benevachart on the estate of Struy being the most prominent; and towards the north, the huge shoulders of Ben Wyvis, the king of Ross-shire mountains, whose bulky form towers majestic for several miles after leaving Inverness, again present themselves. The valley below is further adorned with the steep, but handsome Lovat Bridge, built in 1810, across the river Beauly; and the top of the opposite hill is diversified with small patches of corn land, allotted by General Simon Fraser of Lovat, towards the close of last century, to the veteran soldiers of his clan who had served under him in the American war. The valley towards the mouth of the river becomes a fertile carse, and the expanse of rich cultivated ground stretching along the sloping sides of the firth is extensive. On the summit of the ridge, before descending to the plain, a road is observed striking off to the left, which proceeds through the parish of Kiltarlity to the higher regions of the country afterwards described; and to the right of it, again, are seen the walls and dense woods of Beaufort Castle, the seat of the Right Honourable Thomas Alexander Fraser, Lord Lovat, the present chief of the clan Fraser. The road from the Lovat Bridge leads directly westwards to the Falls of Kilmorack and the districts afterwards noticed: that turning eastward from it conducts a mile onwards to the inn and village of Beauly, where the tourist will find pretty comfortable quarters, and a posting establishment.

5. The ancient Priory of Beauly, which rears its venerable walls above the aged trees which surround it, stands not fifty yards distant from the brink of the river, on a rich loamy soil. Its name is significant of the beauty of its situation; and the remains of its orchard attest the fertility of the ground, and the attention which the old French monks paid to horticulture. They belonged to the order of Valliscaulium, a reform of the Cistertians, following the rule of St. Bennet, who were brought into Scotland, about the year 1230, by Malvoisin, bishop of St. Andrews, and established at the same period at Pluscardine in Elginshire, at Beauly, and Ardchattan in Argyle. They led an

austere and solitary life, and afforded education to the youth, and an asylum to many gentlemen of the Highlands, whom either bodily infirmity, or a distaste for the coarse manners of their countrymen, disqualified for more active occupations.

This priory was founded by John Bisset of Lovat, A. D. 1230; but various additions were afterwards made to it by the several Lords Fraser of Lovat; and at the Reformation, when the last prior gave it, along with his lands, by reason of the "present troubles," in trust to Hugh Lord Lovat, its revenues were considerable. It is now a mere shell: the roof is fallen; and the area within is occupied only with the rubbish of the walls, and the closely-set graves of the clan Fraser, and their allies. Beside the high altar repose the ashes of the old chiefs; and near them those of the principal branches of the clan Fraser, of the Chisholms, and other tribes in Strathglass.

The north transept, which was also the chapter house, has been appropriated as a burying-place exclusively by the Mackenzies of Gairloch, and the fine effigy of a recumbent knight in full panoply of mail, under an arched canopy, marks the resting place of Sir Kenneth Mackenzie, eighth Laird of Kintail, who died in 1493, and who was the first interred here; all his predecessors having been buried in Iona. The south transept contains a great many sepulchres, some surmounted with carved niches and stone sarcophagi; but it is not known to what families they belong, and tradition says that the priors and monks were buried there.

The variety of figures on the more ancient tombstones and fallen crosses is considerable; some are elegantly carved, and the inscriptions on many of them are in the ancient Saxon character. The architecture of the chapel was in the simple, but beautiful early pointed style; a few of the windows on the south side being also formed into very large trefoils. This priory was first despoiled by Oliver Cromwell.

Beauly, or Beaulieu, is said to have been so named by Queen Mary, though we rather suspect the name is a *play* upon the Celtic word *Bal-aa*, or town of the ford, significant of its position with reference to the adjoining well-known ford on the river. Beauly was the market-town of the old Barons of Lovat; and the great fairs, or stated markets, used to be proclaimed in it by the chief in person, with much pomp and ceremony. It is called, by the Gaelic population, "Balnanach," or "Bana-

chan," the Monk's Town, and the neighbouring district, "Leornamanach," or the "Monk's Land." At the adjoining farm of Wellhouse, there is a consecrated spring of water where a lofty cross stood, the shaft of which still exists; but it has been removed to the eastward of the modern village, which, under the patronage of the present noble chief, is now neat and clean, and increasing in size and importance as a shipping port.

Opposite to Beauly, a little to the eastward, on the right bank of the river, stood the old castle of Lovat, where the agriculturist will now find the most ample proofs of the modern spirit of improvement, the present tenant (Mr. France) having himself embanked the river, and reclaimed upwards of eighty acres of fertile carse land. The grounds on both sides are undergoing similar improvements and thorough drainage.

6. On quitting the boundaries of Inverness-shire at the first rivulet, half a mile beyond Beauly, the road enters Ross-shire by the flat and sandy Muir of Ord;* a plain well adapted for the great cattle markets, which, at stated periods of the year, are held here. On its surface we perceive two upright stone pillars, commemorative of a feat of ancient warfare, and connected, it is said, with a prophecy regarding the extinction of the clan Mackenzie; and to the eastward of it exists an astonishing number of stone circles and cairns. A little way north may also be seen the ruined walls of Cilie-Christ (Christ's Church) chapel, as to the raid and destruction of which, see page 149. Losing sight of the fair country about Loch Beauly, the road soon brings us to the banks of the Conon, a broad stream, flowing through a spacious open valley, beautifully laid out with gentlemen's policies, woods, and large farms. The Conon drains all the inland lakes and mountains to Lochs Rosk and Fannich, within ten miles of the western sea. In front an amphitheatre of high rocky cliffs, half concealed by woods, encompasses a sloping plain, in the centre of which appears Castle Brahan, an imposing building, formerly castellated, the seat on this side the island of the Mackenzies of Seaforth. Their more ancient stronghold was the castle of Eilandonan, in Kintail (as to which see page 196). Earl Colin, Lord Kintail, who was chancellor, and a distinguished statesman in the reign of James

* At the north end of the Muir of Ord the road is intersected by that from Kessock and Redcastle, which crosses the plain of Urray, and proceeds by the bridge of Moy to Contin, on the Lochcarron road. (See Branch B. to this Route.)

VI. and Charles I., and who made occasional progresses through his domains, and held "solemn hunting days," as an old MS. before us states, little less imposing than those of royalty itself, built the castle of Brahan, and the castle of Chanonry or Fortrose—his uncle and tutor, Sir Rorie Mackenzie, having about the same time erected Castle Leod in Strathpeffer. If the sight of the Tay recalled to the Roman soldiers the thoughts of their own Tiber, the old avenues of trees, the extended lawns and rich pastures of Brahan appear, in the beginning of last century, and during the previous era of the Commonwealth, to have fascinated the English officers, then garrisoned in the Highlands; who, in their letters, talk of their visits here, as of a joyous return from warfare to the rich sylvan scenes of their boyhoods. The amateur in paintings will find several good pictures in Brahan, three in particular—of Queen Mary, Darnley, and Rizzio; and one very large family-piece by West, which, it is said, cost £3000. The road now passes by Conon House (Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Gairloch, Bart.), and thence across the river to Dingwall, distant about three miles. At the bridge of Scuddel the road from Kessock by the Black Isle joins the post-road, and another here strikes westward, by Brahan, to Contin Inn (five miles off), where it joins the main line to Loch Carron.

7. The town of Dingwall (a name of Scandinavian import, and therefore not altogether familiar to the Gaelic inhabitants, who call the place Inverphaeron) lies in a low and rather damp situation at the opening of Strathpeffer. It contains about 2000 inhabitants; the houses are neat, and the town is supplied with gas and water. The richness of the adjoining country, the hedge-rows and clumps of trees about the town, over which the marsh-loving poplars rear their long columnar stems, bestow on Dingwall not a little of the aspect of one of the sweet villages in the south of England. The powerful Earls of Ross had once a castle, their chief residence, here, the fosse and foundations of which are still visible: and here also they held their courts. Though incorporated as a royal burgh so early as 1227, by Alexander II., the town can boast of no antiquities but its cross, and the pyramidal monument of the Earls of Cromarty. The waters of the Cromarty Firth come close to the town, but, from their shallowness, the mouth of an adjoining streamlet had to be deepened and formed into a canal for the admission of small

vessels. Dingwall must have been long a sort of *terra incognita* to all the world except its own worthy neighbours; for we find in the Council records of Inverness, so late as the year 1733, that an embassage was projected by the magistrates to ascertain the condition of this burgh. The enterprising and intelligent bailie, who conducted it, reported that there was no prison, but there was "a lake close to the town, which kept people from kirk and market for want of a bridge; that there was no trade in the town, but that there were one or two inclined to carry on trade if they had a harbour." The Council of Inverness treasured up this information in their minutes, and directed their cashier to pay to the bailie £8 Scots for his expenses. Like all the northern towns and villages (with the exception of Cromarty and Wick), the prosperity of Dingwall depends entirely on the agricultural population of the neighbourhood; but from whom also it receives their poor ejected tenantry. Dingwall has the following signs of modern civilization and improvement about it: two comfortable hotels, the Caledonian and National; excellent roads and streets; a good Parish and Free Church schools; two churches and an Episcopal chapel; a printing establishment, and weekly newspaper; a prison (forming, with the court-house and county rooms, a fine castellated building, conspicuous on the plain as we enter from the south, and much finer and more comfortable as a residence than almost any of its inmates were before accustomed to), and two bank offices. It has the honour also of being one of the northern burghs entitled to send a representative to parliament.

8. The first stage to Invergordon, along the northern shore of the Cromarty Firth, is fifteen miles long, divided nearly in the middle by the neat village of Evantown, intermediate between which and Invergordon the road passes through Allness, another considerable village. Having the sea on the right, the road passes on the left Tulloch Castle and grounds (Davidson), Mountgerald (Mackenzie), and thence to the Aultgraat river, the fine estate and large mansion of Foulis (Sir C. Munro, chief of his clan), which, from the long and continued absence of the proprietors, shew sad tokens of degeneracy and decay. At Evantown we enter the beautiful and highly cultivated domains of Novar (Munro), and the tourist should rest a day at the hotel there, in order to examine the valuable collection of paintings in

Novar House, and the Aultgraat, or the "ugly or terrific burn," which flows out of Loch Glass, at the northern base of Ben Wyvis, and which, along its whole course, displays an extraordinary succession of cliffs and waterfalls of uncommon character. The stream pours down a *slip* or shift in the sandstone strata, nearly two miles in length, about a hundred feet in depth, but not above a yard in width at the bottom, and five or six at the top. The opening is, in fact, at top, in many places, quite overgrown and concealed by bushes; while along the rocky channel below, a rumbling torrent is heard rushing on with violence, although invisible from the bank above. At the mouth of the little river just named, is the castellated mansion of Balcony, anciently a residence of the Earls of Ross; and Kiltearn Church, hard by, which still exhibits traces of a fine altar window, was their chapel. Castle Craig, on the opposite side of the Firth, built by one of the old iron-handed Barons of Cromarty, was subsequently altered into a palace, and formed the summer residence of the Bishops of Ross. Novar House, a short way east of Evantown, a splendid modern mansion, filled with the choicest works of art, and attached to a magnificent estate, which was much improved and adorned by the late Sir Hector Munro of Novar, is associated with some of the brightest achievements of British valour in India. It is backed by the fine mountain of Fyrish, surmounted by a set of high upright stones, arranged as an Indian temple. The district here is the *locale* of the clan Munro, and is called Ferindonald, from Donald, one of the earliest chiefs, who accepted a feu of it from Malcolm II. in the eleventh century. The history of the clan Munro is so far peculiar, that it was always a strongly *Whiggish* and *covenanting* clan. In close alliance with Lord Reay and the Mackays of Sutherland, the chiefs early embraced the principles of the Reformation, and were as distinguished for piety and virtue in private, as for boldness and enterprise in public, and for being in advance of their age in promoting all kinds of improvement. In the armies of Gustavus Adolphus, for continental Protestantism, there were at one time no less than 3 Generals, 8 Colonels, 5 Lieutenant-Colonels, 11 Majors, and above 30 Captains, all of the clan Munro; besides a very large body of subalterns, whose descendants are still resident in Sweden and Germany. The chiefs alive at the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745, did much to suppress those risings, and to prove the extra-

ordinary aptitude of the Scottish Highlanders for the most arduous and daring military services. Sir Robert Munro of Foulis, who mainly contributed to the victory over the French at Fontenoy, soon after shared the same fate as his friend and companion, the celebrated Colonel Gardiner, having, with his brother Dr. Munro, and many of his friends, perished at the battle of Falkirk. In the same year (1746) his other brother, Captain George Munro of Culcairn, fell in ambuscade at Loch Arkaig, in Lochaber.

9. Ferindonald and the district of Easter Ross which succeeds it, and comprehends all the rest of the county to Tain, and Tarbat Ness, are remarkably rich and well wooded, and may be considered the great granary of the north, more grain (wheat in particular) being annually exported from these districts than from all the other northern counties, excepting Caithness, put together. The soil is either a deep clay, or sharp sandy mould, and all the best farms and estates lie over sandstone and argillaceous ridges which slope gently towards the firth. The country is further distinguished by the number of handsome seats, belonging to a wealthy proprietary of from £1000 to £12,000 of yearly landed income, and who can boast of a most intelligent and highly respectable tenantry, who, until the recent corn-law changes, generally enjoyed a more than ordinary degree of comfort, and moderately-rented farms. They all farm as "high" as their means permit; their lands are being thoroughly drained, and the finest varieties of live stock are everywhere reared. No person with an agricultural eye can fail to be struck with the immense extent, and uninterrupted cultivation and high order of the rich coast of Ferindonald and Easter Ross; although even yet not half the breadth of land has been reclaimed that could be brought into cultivation, were it, as times presently go, a profitable object to do so. The small proprietors are beginning to cry out that their grounds are being thrown on their hands—as with present prices tenants won't engage in long stringent leases; and they themselves have not capital enough to carry on improvements and pay burdens. The greater landholders may stand out better for a while; but as they are almost all *absentees*, and look only to the *returns* on their investments—not the minute embellishment and improvement of their estates—there is some danger that the advancement made by the country will stop.

In fact, if care be not taken, the Highlands of Scotland may soon become like Ireland—a pauperized excrescence on the empire. And if education be not promoted as a *national* safeguard and outlet to the unemployed energies of the people, even *Celtic* endurance may have an end. Government was so miserably misinformed as to the state of feeling on religious matters, and so little credited the sincerity of the people's high resolves, that the Disruption of the Establishment was permitted, and the sacrifices and exertions thereby caused have greatly paralyzed social comfort and improvement. In the more northern counties a small fraction only of the population has adhered to the Established Church—Presbyterianism having, for a considerable time, subsisted there in its most rigidly Calvinistic and democratic form. The pastors, almost to a man, gave in their adherence to the *Free Church;* and the people, over whom they were wont to exercise a discipline so strict as to be little short of that of Rome, followed them *en masse.* While the services of the Establishment are avoided, only two or three parishes in Ross are able to support the Free ministers and their various schemes; and unmistakeable signs are now being shewn that the Free Church, as a body, cannot afford to maintain all its parishes, and that several must soon be united together—many of the churches thus becoming only occasional preaching stations. If ordinances are not administered to the poor Highlanders by those whom they respect and love, their minds will become sluggish and indifferent; and should society thus retrograde, government may rue, when too late, their having trusted so much to the forbearance and intelligence of moral Scotland.

10. Two miles west from Allness, a road seventeen miles long, of easy ascent, proceeds through the interior of the country to the eastward of Bonar Bridge, thus saving to the traveller the fatigue of tracing the long round by Tain and the Dornoch Firth. It passes over the great district of Ardross, the earliest *duchus* of the Earls of Ross, and of the Celtic clan *Anrias* or Ross; and after forming for a time part of the Ducal possessions of Sutherland, the property now belongs to Alexander Matheson, Esq., M. P. for the Inverness district of burghs, who has begun to improve it with the zeal of a Highlander, and with oriental munificence. On a high bank overlooking the wooded Allness water, and yet in the close vicinity

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of the wild alpine scenes around Lochs Moir (St. Mary's Lake) whence this river issues, and Loch Glass, at the base of Ben Wyvis, he has erected a large castellated mansion, and all around it planted out grounds with forest trees, raised fences of imperishable *granite*, and brought into culture thousands of acres—all, till lately, mere marsh and moor, and extending to 600 feet above the sea. Mr. Matheson has seldom less than 500 men employed, at an annual outlay of many thousand pounds! The comfortable inn of Stittengham divides the public road between the firths nearly midway, and soon after passing it, a most magnificent view bursts in sight of the Dornoch Firth, with all its bays and promontories, and the beautiful terraces which line it and stretch up from it into the Highland glens.*

11. From Allness village and from Roskeen kirk, two miles farther on (where the shell of a very small and ancient chapel, with pretty triple lancet windows, under one headstone, will be seen among a mass of hideous modern tombs), branch or district roads strike off from the post road and extend along the country side over a series of higher gravel ridges and terraces, considerably shortening the distance to Tain, and commanding most extensive views. On this route we pass the beautiful seats of Invergordon Castle (Macleod of Cadboll), Kincraig (Major Mackenzie), Kindeace (Major Robertson), Newmore (F. Gillanders, Esq.), Scotsburn, and Balnagown Castle, and enter Tain above the woods of Culrossie (Rose Ross), and past the new Poor's House—a spacious high roofed building, with governor's house, hospital, and airing courts, recently erected by the parishes of Easter Ross, for the accommodation of their paupers, who never were so elegantly or comfortably housed before, but who rather shrewdly regard the place as a sort of state prison.

12. At Invergordon there is an excellent inn, harbour, and a ferry across the firth, which connects the post road with that proceeding through the Black Isle to Kessock. It is a place of considerable size, the houses substantial, and it is of growing importance as a shipping port for the fertile districts adjacent, and possesses two branch banks. From this village Tain is distant about twelve miles, the post-house of Parkhill being

* Below Ardross House, a very promising vein of hematetic iron ore has been discovered; and in turning up some of the adjoining grounds, two very curious stone moulds have been found, in which were cast the ancient bronze battle axes, generally called Celts, but which have all the elegance of shape and finish of *Roman* workmanship

about half way, before reaching which we pass the small coast villages of Saltburn, Barbaraville, and Balintrade, all abounding with a poor population of agricultural labourers and country artizans. Beyond these we enter on the Cromertie domains, belonging to the Marchioness of Stafford, whose residence (Tarbat House) lies to the right, close by the sea, and which was erected by the late Lord Macleod on the restoration of the family estates, nearly on the site of one of the castles of the old Mackenzies, Earls of Cromarty, whose representative was attainted in 1715. A dungeon of the old keep still remains with a few large and old yew-trees about it, and the adjoining gardens and avenues of large and aged elms and beech trees are worthy of notice.

13. A short way to the east, and above Tarbat House on the banks of a romantic Highland stream, and with a magnificent lawn in front of it, stands the castle of Balnagown (Sir Charles Ross, Bart., the representative of an ancient branch of the clan), one of the most imposing edifices in the north. It consists of an old western tower, having a very high-pointed roof and numerous chimneys and turrets, with additions of various dates, so characteristic of the old Scottish architecture, and which, with a slight admixture from the French, has been shewn by Mr. Billings (Scottish Baronial Antiquities) to be of a peculiarly stately and national style. An eastern tower, containing the modern public rooms, more in the abbey or ecclesiastical form, was joined on not long ago, but in complete harmony with the older buildings, and the whole has been encircled round the base by the arches of a continuous verandha covered with creepers, and which, in front, has been closed in as a conservatory. All the appurtenances of feudal greatness and modern comfort are to be found within the walls, and the taste of Lady Ross has reclaimed the adjoining dell, which, by nature, was plentifully adorned by forest trees (including some large native oaks and pines), and connected it with a flower garden laid out on a scale of magnificence and size unequalled in the north. Sandstone cliffs overhung with ivy, gushing fountains, a large sheet of water with swans and other aquatic fowl swimming about in it, and the banks of the neighbouring rapid river have all been made to harmonize as parts of a great and beautiful design ; and finally, cottages, arbours, islands, bridges, and rustic grottos have here been introduced with a profusion

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and variety, and on so large a scale, as entirely to do away with the stiffness and petite character so frequently observable in such ornamental work.

Shortly to the eastward of the Balnagown river, the fine fields and fir woods of Calrossie (Rose Ross) succeed ; and, emerging from them, the Dornoch Firth, the far extending point of Tarbat Ness, and the blue hills of Sutherlandshire, greet the view.

14. Tain* (Ting, a court place, *Gaelice*, Bailed Dhuich, St. Duthus' Town) is an irregularly built burgh, containing nearly 2000 inhabitants, with several new and handsome houses. It is situated on the margin of the Dornoch Firth, the extensive shoals and sandbanks of which prevent it from having a harbour. The fields about the town are rich and cheerful ; and along the sea-beach the inhabitants possess a beautiful promenade of links ground, which, some years ago, was occasionally used as a race course. It extends over a vast flat called the *Fendom*, or *Morich more*, which is partially cultivated, but on which blown sands are yearly encroaching. From the eastern margin of this plain, a low terrace bank (Mr. Chalmers' 90 feet terrace, though here not quite so high) may be seen skirting the whole shore, and attaining its greatest altitude just below the free manse of Tain, where the sea had cut deep into the *boulder clay*, and left the *drift gravel* terrace on retiring as its last margin. This terrace again falls a little to the north of the town, which mainly stands upon it, and at about a mile's distance may be seen, a little back from it, an enormous granite boulder, weighing many tons, on which the name of "the immortal Walter Scott" and the year of his death "1832," have been carved. Both sides of the Dornoch Firth are beautifully fringed with this general terrace, and directly underneath it, throughout the whole district from Dingwall eastwards, the boulder clay is strewn over the inferior rocks to a great depth, and is no doubt the cause of the country's fertility. Everywhere on the surface may be seen water-worn boulders of crystalline rocks (chiefly granites), strongly indicative of the last glacial action to which the island was subjected after its ridges and estuaries had received their present forms.

The ancient church of Tain was collegiate, and dedicated to St. Duthus, who was the "godly Bishop of Ross," between 1209

* Inns in Tain.—St. George and Dragon, Ellison's; Balnagown Arms, Ross; Crown and Anchor, Mackay. Posting is chiefly carried on by double-seated gigs, for which 10s. 6d is usually charged per day.

and 1253. His chapel, a small but very simple and cyclopean like structure (having no altar window, no lights on the north side, and but one small round-headed window in the west, and the southern front being almost entirely obliterated), exists still in ruins on the plain below the town, and it is noted for three great and well-known historical events connected with it. The first was, that King Robert the Bruce (anno 1306), when his fortunes were at the lowest, sent his queen and daughter for safety to the stronghold of Kildrummy in Mar; but they, dreading a siege by Edward I., fled to St. Duthus' sanctuary, whence the all-powerful Earl of Ross, deterred by no feelings of honour or religion, seized their persons, and delivered them to the English. The second event is detailed more minutely by Sir Robert Gordon, in his Earldom of Sutherland, where it is stated, that M'Neill, laird of Criech, and some *caterans*, having been defeated about the year 1429, by Mowatt, laird of Freswick, in Caithness, also fled to St. Duthus' sanctuary at Tain; and that their pursuers, to avoid a direct violation of the fane by dragging them from it, set fire to the heather roof of the building and destroyed them in it, and along with them an ancient and very valuable set of records belonging to the burgh. For forty years afterwards the parish seems to have had no permanent place of worship; but in 1471, St. Duthus' church, which is still standing, was erected on the brink of an escarpment in the middle of the town, being founded by Thomas, bishop of the diocese, for a provost, eleven prebendaries, and three singing boys. The third event we have alluded to, was the pilgrimage of King James V. to St. Duthus' shrine in 1527, when he entered the town barefooted, by the only road about it, and said to have been made for the occasion, and since called the King's Causeway; but which, from the extent to which it proceeds southwards, we suspect was part of a more ancient and general highway, noticed in old charters which we have seen, as the "*via Scoticana*." "This church, now a shocking place from neglect and decay, has been (as has been remarked by J. M. N. in his Ecclesiological Notes on the Isle of Man, Ross, &c.) a fine specimen of middle-pointed Gothic, probably the work of the same architect as Fortrose. The east window is on a very grand scale. Of five lights, it has three divisions, the central one being more acutely pointed. The tracery consists of a large six-foiled circle in the apex, supported on two trefoiled circles smaller

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than itself. In the north of the choir the windows have been either blocked, or they never existed; on the south there are two, the first of three lights, its tracery a trefoiled circle and double quatrefoil; the second of four lights, simply intersecting —an arrangement which, however disagreeable to us, seems to have found great favour in this diocese of Ross." The nave has but one window, with three plain intersecting lights; the piscina is west of the sedile, and blockaded with a barricade of broken pews. The western facade had a window of four simple intersecting lights; the door, if ever there was one, has been displaced by a huge heavy porch, in the front of which a small recumbent figure of a priest, in eucharistic vestment, has been built upright; and on each side of the window is a small niche, that on the north containing the effigy of a bishop, probably St. Duthus, who seems to have been titular over the whole shire, Loch Duich, on the Kintail coast, as well as this town, being named after him. There is a small detached chapel to the south, probably the original shrine, which seems of earlier work than the church. On the east it has a first pointed triplet under one head; one lancet on the north, and two couplets, under one arch, and a small door on the south. The roof of the church is entire, and the building could still be used if cleaned out, and burying in the vaults prohibited. Even in its ruins how chaste and beautiful is this temple, when compared with the modern parish church—a huge square battlemented building, with frowning towers at the four corners! Hard by St. Duthus' Church, in old times, stood a castle of the Earls of Ross, whose crest (a lion rampant) till lately surmounted the town's cross, which stood at the base of the grand massive tower which leads up to the new and elegant court-house and county buildings. The tower is old—a fine stately erection, with a completely foreign air. It has a central conical spire, and a smaller one at each angle, with small oblong apertures under the eaves of each cone, instead of windows, and the whole is encased within slabs of polished freestone. The present prison lies farther west, an unpretending but secure and sufficiently comfortable building. The earliest charter extant in favour of the burgh, is one by James VI. in 1587, followed by another in 1612, and by a third from Charles II. On the 20th April, 1439, however, a jury of the highest names in the country investigated the antiquity and privileges of this burgh, with the view of ascertaining the con-

tents of the documents which had been burnt ten years before, and they found that Tain had been enfranchised by Malcolm Caenmore, and confirmed in its rights by several of his successors. The retour or verdict of this jury is still extant at Inverness. The neighbouring abbacy of Fearn (six miles from Tain on the way to Nigg and Cromarty), founded by the first Earl of Ross in 1230, is of still greater celebrity than any of the buildings in Tain.* The monks of it were of the *Candidus Ordo*, of the rule of St. Augustine. Patrick Hamilton, an abbot of this place, was among the first who suffered in this country for favouring the reformed religion; and his writings rank among the purest and most touching of those of the Scottish martyrs. He was burnt at St. Andrews in 1527. The abbacy was annexed to the bishopric of Ross in the reign of James VI. Near it is one of those interesting sculptured pillars, of which there are so many in this quarter, as at Nigg, Hilton, and Shandwick.

Tain, of most of which the Duke of Sutherland is feudal superior, possesses an excellent academy, situated in an airy and healthy part of the town, and commanding a beautiful view of the Dornoch Firth and coast of Sutherland. This seminary is provided with two masters and a rector; and its directors have enriched it with a choice but valuable assortment of chemical and philosophical apparatus.†

* The Abbey Church of Fearn has been converted into the modern parish church, but has been horribly mutilated, and both it and the adjoining chapels, now used as tombs, are fast crumbling into dust. It consisted of chancel, nave, two chapels to the former—perhaps south aisle to the latter—and is nearly wholly first pointed. The east end, which is blocked off for a burying ground of the Balnagown family, has four equal lancets, an unusual but pretty arrangement. On the north four lancets, and on the south two; and, as in Tain, the piscina is west of the sedilia. It is impossible to say how the conventual buildings were arranged, and the south side of the nave, which has been rebuilt, may have had an aisle, as a little out from it, enclosed now in the Shandwick burying-ground, is a canopied tomb over the recumbent figure of an abbot, having a mutilated inscription in Saxon letters, and which appears to be in its original position. The chapels were rather curious. The north one was entered from the chancel by a middle pointed door, close to which is a very small altar in the recess of the east window. The north side has a middle pointed window of three lights, simply intersecting, but very beautiful; the west one was of two lights, both without foliations. The chapel had five ribs of stone parallel with the axis of the church, and was *waggon vaulted*. A large portion of this roof has lately fallen in. The south chapel much resembled the other, and had a round headed canopied tomb, or altar, on the south side. The west window, which is remarkably pretty, is middle pointed, of two lights, and the east is the same. (See Eccl. Notes, p. 59.)

† While at Tain, we would strongly advise the tourist, if an agriculturist or an antiquary, to procure from a bookseller's shop, or from the Kirk Session's library, a perusal of Nos. 21 and 29 of the New Statistical Account of Scotland, which contain very minute and excellent descriptions of the parishes in this neighbourhood, exhibiting their ancient historical and ecclesiastical condition, and the recent most wonderful improvements in the cultivation of the soil. A short excursion to Fearn Abbey

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15. The strait of the firth called the Meikle Ferry lies three miles west from Tain. A natural mole projecting into the gulf reduces its breadth to less than two miles; but from the shoals in the channel, and its exposure to sudden gusts of wind from the mountains, this ferry is considered as one of the most dangerous and inconvenient in the north. A melancholy and memorable accident occurred here in the autumn of the year 1709, when ninety-nine persons were drowned from the overloaded state of the ferry-boat.—A fair was to have been held on the Ross-shire coast, to which numbers crowded from the opposite shore of Sutherland. A rush for seats in the boat took place; it put off, and was overset in the rapid and agitated current which flows through the middle of the strait. To avoid this ferry, the Parliamentary Commissioners for Highland Roads (assisted by the heritors of Sutherlandshire), in the year 1812, built an iron bridge at Bonar, across a narrow part of the firth, fourteen miles above Tain, at an expense of £14,000. The road, therefore, from this town to Dornoch takes a prodigious circuit, passing on the Ross-shire side through a country of little interest, excepting such as it derives from the view of the distant Sutherland mountains; and its historical associations as having been, from the earliest times, the residence of the great clan Ross (and hence called *Ardross*, or the Ross' height or district), by whose first Earl the Abbey of Fearn was founded—the field of many sanguinary clan battles, and, prior to these, of encounters with the Danes. Mr. Ross of Pitcalnie, one of the heritors in Kincardine parish, claims to be the representative of the ancient title, and of the chieftainship of his clan. The abbey was first built near the western extremity of Eddertoun, but, owing to the frequent interruptions occasioned by the ferocity of the neighbouring clans, it was removed about twelve miles south-east of that situation, whence it was afterwards styled *Abbacie de nova Farina*, and the founder was buried

and Tarbat Ness lighthouse will be gratifying, not only as they are well worth seeing, but as the latter is near the site of an old Roman monument or land-mark, and a Roman encampment, as well as being close to the ruins of Loch Slin castle, and to the old and very large castle of Balone, successively possessed by the Earls of Ross and of Cromarty. The churchyards of Tarbat and other parishes abound in curious sculptured tombs and crosses; while the parishes of Eddertoun and Kincardine contain numerous cairns, stones of memorial, and dunes or burghs, those very ancient fortresses of a circular form, having stairs and chambers in the openings of the wall, on all of which much light has yet to be thrown by the intelligent antiquary. On the way to and from Tarbat Ness, too, the splendid system of farming is exhibited, so minutely and graphically described in his Statistical Report of 1840, by the learned schoolmaster of that parish.

there under a tomb, surmounted by a warrior's effigy, which is still pointed out as his. Bonar Bridge consists of an iron arch 150 feet in span, and two stone arches of fifty and sixty feet respectively. The fabric is as strong as it is beautiful, for the pillars have repeatedly withstood uninjured the shocks of united masses of ice and timber, and the collision of small vessels driven against them by the tide. The mail coach, which, north of Tain, is drawn only by two horses, till lately used to cross the firth at Meikle Ferry, but it now goes round by Bonar Bridge. There is a good inn at Ardgay, a mile south of the bridge, and another inn on the further side of the strait, where a line of houses, overlooking the water, form the village of Bonar.*

16. The coast road from Bonar Bridge to Helmsdale passes through the most beautiful and interesting, or at least the most fertile, portions of the county of Sutherland. Two miles and a half on from Bonar are the church and manse of Creich ; and on the summit of a hill which juts out into the firth, a noted vitrified fort, Dun Creich. Spinningdale, two miles farther on, once

* At Ardgay gigs and post-horses may be had, and the tourist, if not a pedestrian, should here make up his mind how he is to proceed, as he must recollect that, except at Dornoch and Golspie, no conveyances are to be had on hire throughout the county, and, after quitting the latter place, a post-chaise cannot be got nearer than Wick in Caithness. Mr. Gunn's good hotel at Dornoch, and Mr. Hill's excellent one at Golspie, can supply either chaises, gigs, droskies, dog-carts, or saddle horses, on reasonable terms; but besides these the traveller can only reckon upon the mail coach on the Great North Road, and the mail cars or gigs (each of which now carries five passengers besides the post-boy) on the cross or midland roads. At present the mail car leaves Golspie for Tongue at 5 A. M. every Monday and Thursday, and arrives at Lairg Inn (Mackay, an excellent house), 19 miles, at 8; 20 minutes is there allowed for breakfast. Arrives at Altnaharrow, 21 miles (small inn, Munro), at 12 o'clock noon; and at Tongue Inn (pretty good, Munro), 17 miles, at 3 P. M.—total distance 57 miles, fare 9s. 6d. The car returns from Tongue on Wednesday and Saturday, starting at 7 A. M. and reaching Golspie at 5 P. M.

A branch mail car leaves Lairg for Loch Inver on Monday and Thursday at half-past 8 A. M., reaches Oykill, 8 miles (Anderson's inn, good), at 11 ; reaches Assynt or Inninsindamff, 17 miles (M'Gregor, a good inn), at 1 : 50 P. M., and arrives at Loch Inver, 14 miles (Dunbar's, good inn), at 3 : 50 P. M.—the total distance being 46 miles, and fare 10s. This vehicle returns on Wednesday and Saturday, starting at 7 A. M.

N.B.—A fair public house will be found at Aultancealgach, and good inns at Kylescou and Scourie, to which latter place a mail car starts on the arrival of the post at Assynt. There is also a pretty good inn (Mrs. Munro) at Durinish.

A mail car also runs between Tongue and Thurso, dependant on the post's hour of arrival at the latter place, and as the arrangements are expected to be changed soon, we need not here insert those presently observed. To the west of Tongue the bags are carried by a foot runner; and as yet no post goes up Strath Brora, nor from Helmsdale, by the new road through Kildonan to Port Skerry on the northern coast.

Heavy goods and parcels from Leith and London, for the interior of Ross and Sutherland, are generally landed at Invergordon, and brought on by the Tain carrier (Alexander Munro), whose carts pass regularly between these places every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. He also sends a cart once a-week to Bonar Bridge, and occasionally to Golspie, and if he finds goods at Invergordon for Dingwall he sees them forwarded.

a prosperous village, is now a complete ruin. It is beautifully situated on the banks of the Kyle, or Firth of Dornoch. There was a cotton manufactory erected here about fifty years ago, which employed a hundred hands, but the building was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1806. Three miles from the village, the house of Ospisdale (D. Gilchrist, Esq.) is passed on the left. At the road side will be observed a huge erect pillar of stone, fully nine feet high, which, according to tradition, is commemorative of the death, in battle, of a Danish chief called Hospis, whence the name of the place. Approaching Clashmore inn, two miles and a half further on, the traveller passes Skibo, the delightful residence of George Dempster, Esq.—the abode during Episcopal times, of the Bishops of Sutherland and Caithness, and which was remarkable for its excellent gardens and orchards, which are still kept in high order. Clashmore inn is two miles and a half from the Meikle Ferry ; and at a little distance on the north road, a branch, one mile long, communicates with the town of Dornoch, which, by a lower road, is five miles from the ferry.

17. From the windows of Mr. Gunn's comfortable hotel, in the centre of a square at the farther end of the cathedral town of Dornoch, the Sutherland capital, and looking westward, the traveller at once surveys the most interesting objects of the place, and has a commanding view of all the streets and houses, which have a comfortable substantial aspect—as being built of a cheerful yellow freestone, and all supplied with ample garden ground. The town is situated immediately in front of a high gravel terrace on a light sandy soil, amid arid hillocks of sand, piled up by the sea and the winds, and prevented from drifting only by the bent grass which grows upon them. The whole locality is evidently an ancient sea bottom, and though healthy, the place is exposed to every bitter blast which blows in this cold climate. In approaching Dornoch, the low but old-looking tower of the cathedral and the bishop's turreted castle give it a pleasing and venerable appearance. The streets are remarkably clean, and, unlike what we see in most old towns, they are wide and regularly formed. Although situated at the entrance of the firth, which is an arm of the German Ocean, Dornoch has, in these latter times at least, been little benefited by its proximity to the sea—a bar of sand which stretches across the mouth of the firth, called the "Geyzen Briggs," rendering the

navigation intricate, particularly to vessels of large burthen. At spring-tides there are four fathoms water on this bar, and with neap-tides seven feet less. The term "Geyzen Briggs" is evidently of Scandinavian origin, bearing a close affinity to the word "Geyzer," which is the appellation given at this day to the most remarkable of the boiling springs of Iceland, and which, in the ancient Icelandic dialect, is descriptive of the hoarse roar and foaming appearance of the water. The noise created by the Geyzen Briggs at particular times, especially during frosty weather, is so loud as to be heard at a distance of many miles: it is the infallible *barometer* of the old burgh residenter, to whose practised ear its each varied intonation, from the deep muffle to the loud and appalling roar, bears a sure indication of the coming weather. Dornoch was, in ancient times, the ecclesiastical seat of the Bishops of Sutherland and Caithness, and it consequently had the honour of being one of the fourteen cities of Scotland: the canons (nine in number) also resided here. The palace, or castle, was a large building of most massive structure: in 1570, it was burnt to the ground by banditti, under the Master of Caithness and Jye Mackay of Strathnaver, who made an inroad into Sutherland, and plundered the town of Dornoch. In 1813, the ruins of the palace were in part repaired, and have till lately been used as the *county gaol*, but the whole have recently been removed, with the exception of the picturesque high western tower, and on the site a spacious new prison and beautiful court house, with record and county meeting rooms, have been erected. In the former, the prisoners are taught to work, and though allowed to walk in the spacious airing court, they are all subjected to the severe discipline of the *silent* system.

The cathedral was built by Gilbert de Moravia (bishop from 1223 to 1260), who was the near kinsman, if not the uncle of Andrew de Moravia, who, at the same time, erected on the opposite side of the firth, the more magnificent minster of Elgin. Being thus related to the great family who had then recently acquired that vast territory, "the southern land of Caithness," which now gives the title to their lineal descendant the present duke, he ruled his church in peace, and repaired many royal castles in the northern provinces. It seems probable that he designed this cathedral church himself, as he caused it to be reared at his own charge, and the

Scottish Breviary states that even the glass was made on the spot under his own eye. The constitution which he gave to it is still extant at Dunrobin, and has been printed for the Bannatyne Club. He appointed five dignitaries and three prebendaries. The church thus built survived to our own times, though much decayed and partly ruined, and like all the fanes in Ross, subjected to the vilest neglect and desecration. It was "restored" about twelve years ago, but as remarked by the writer in the Quarterly Review for June 1849, "the work, unhappily, was not intrusted to competent hands." It consists at present, of chancel, nave, transepts, and central tower; with, as observed in the Ecclesiological Notes, some frightful modern excrescences in the shape of porches and sacristy. The nave, probably, originally had aisles. "The east window is a triplet, and there is a single lancet in the gable. Each side of the chancel has three lancets. The north transept has a small triplet to the north, and two separate lancets east and west. The south transept is the same. The nave has four lancets on each side, and at the west end one of those intersecting, unfoliated, middle-pointed window of four (should be five) lights, so common in this part. The tower is short and thick, resting on arches of two first-pointed order, and crowned with a stunted spire." (Eccl. Note, p. 66.)

Sixteen earls of Sutherland are said to be buried in the south transept (the nave having been reserved for the bodies of lesser families); but at the restoration and conversion of the building into a parish church, the whole chancel was formed into a new tomb for the ducal family, and the top of it railed in as their pew—the piscina being thus almost boarded over, and the altar window being closed up. The parishioners objected to *stained glass* being again inserted in the windows, but they seem to have had no compunctions at the site of the altar being appropriated to a large full-length statue of the late Duke by Chantrey, which, with a high tablet behind, extending to near the roof, inscribed with a long history of the virtues and lineage of the late duchess-countess, forms a piece of *hero worship* unsuitable, at least, to such a place. In forming the new vault beneath, a cross-legged effigy of a knight covering a stone coffin was found, containing the remains of Sir Richard de Moravia, brother of the founder. The whole were rather uncere-

moniously removed from their original resting place, and now lie exposed in the north transept.

Neither the beauty nor sacred character of the cathedral preserved it from the fate of the palace, in 1570, at the hands of the Master of Caithness and his Vandal followers. On the same occasion, also, a monastery of Trinity Friars, established here, fell a sacrifice to their barbarous fury. In the neighbourhood of the town are numerous spots to which tradition has attached an interest, by its tales of the many bloody struggles which were erst so successfully maintained there against foreign invaders,—the details of which, however, our limits forbid us to relate. From a circumstance attending one of these it was that the town received its present name, which Sir Robert Gordon describes as follows :—

"A party of Danes, having effected a landing on the coast, were met by the 'Morfhear Chatt' and his clansmen within a few hundred yards of the town, where a severe contest ensued, in the course of which the earl had his sword broken whilst engaged in single combat with the king or chief of the Danes. In this emergency he seized the hoof of a dead horse, which accidentally lay on the spot, and with one blow killed his opponent. In reference to this event, the town was called Dornoch, (from *dærn*, a blow, and *lach*, a horse ;) and the tradition is supported by the fact that the crest of the burgh is a horse's shoe ; and a stone in the figure of a cross at a short distance from the town, called *Crois-Righ* (the King's Cross), further corroborates it, and serves to point out the spot where the occurrence took place."* Two other objects pointed out by the inhabitants with great interest are—the socket of the old gallows tree, (unused now for one hundred and twelve years, the last execution having taken place on the 26th of May, 1738, when Donald Mackay from Kirkton, convicted of murder before the Regality Court of Sutherland, was hanged at Dornoch ;) and the fatal stone at which their forefathers used to display their holy emnity against the Black Art, by the sacrifice, in an indiscriminate blaze, of all who were supposed to profess it. Here it was that one of the very last instances in Scotland occurred of the burning of a witch, in the person of an old half-witted woman from Tarbet in Ross-shire, in 1722. "About the

* This cross, which is a very rude one, seems to us to have been of more recent origin, and to be simply a church boundary stone, separating the Bishops' and Chanters' fields, where it stands.

town," says Sir Robert, "along the sea-coast, there are the fairest and largest links, or green fields, of any part of Scotland, fit for archery, golfing, and all other exercise. They do surpass the fields of Montrose or St. Andrews."

18. In this neighbourhood, as indeed in every quarter of the county, have been found *tumuli*, containing *stone coffins* or *chests*, enclosing earthen urns with ashes. Sometimes pieces of human bones, and the remains of weapons, and polished stone axes, have been also discovered in such tumuli. These coffins are formed of a lid and bottom, the former supported at the sides and either end by flagstones placed on edge, so as to be closely shut all around. The urns are, we believe, in every instance unglazed, but some were rudely ornamented, though without any inscription, and they evidently are not of Roman construction. Stone circles, Druidical and Danish, also abound in this neighbourhood, and generally throughout the county.

19. About six or seven miles from Dornoch, the road crosses Loch Fleet, an arm of the sea which extends nine miles inland, by a magnificent mole or mound, the last grand work by which the parliamentary commissioners completed the communication between the opposite ends of this island. The waters of the firth are confined and regulated by four sluices and arches on the north side of the mound, which is nearly a thousand yards in length. Altogether the work cost £12,500; but a great deal of land has been reclaimed by means of it. On the southern shore are the ruins of Skelbo Castle, formerly the residence of the family of Sutherland, Lord Duffus; and on the summit of Ben Brachy to the north the tourist will descry the colossal statue of the late Duke of Sutherland, erected by the tenantry, after a model by Chantrey.

20. Thence to Helmsdale, the coast of Sutherland may justly be pronounced as soft and very beautiful. Woods and swelling hills, and farms cultivated on the newest and most approved systems, bedecked with neat houses and offices, everywhere meet the eye, and vary and enliven the journey. Such inns, too, are nowhere to be found within the Highland border. Their attentive landlords and smart grooms, carpeted floors and latticed windows, transport us to happy England; and in short, from his entrance into Sutherland, the stranger perceives everywhere the impress of a master-mind in the device and execution of magnificent improvements. Where formerly there was but one

indifferent road, even at the threshold of the ducal castle, no enclosed ground, a few huts of wooden frames thatched with turf, and each accommodating under the same roof the family, with their cattle, horses, and pigs,—the rude plough drawn by a squad of garrons and *stirks*, and the inhabitants dressed rather scantily in home-made woollen stuffs, we now behold a fine mail-coach road, with extensive cross, district, and farm roads, of the best description—the finest short-horned and Galloway cattle, and the most approved breeds of horses—the smaller tenants all living in decent stone and lime or clay cottages with glass windows, and their fare correspondingly better, and habited in long coats of English manufacture, with white shirts, hats, and silk handkerchiefs: while the upper tenantry are all gentlemen, living in good houses two storeys high, and having their wheeled carriages for personal and family use. The establishments of Mr. Sellar, Morvich, on Loch Fleet, and Mr. Craig, Kirkton, afford a perfect treat and study; and the former, besides being greatly instrumental in raising the Sutherland clip of wool, and the carcass of the sheep to its present high repute, has also reclaimed extensive tracts of ground from the sea, and made corn grow where boats were wont to sail. The sore feelings which, in the bosoms of the native population, accompanied these improvements for years after their commencement, are now happily much allayed, as the people have had most unequivocal proofs of the desire of the noble family of Sutherland to do them good. The removal of the old tenantry from the interior, however, gave rise to most heart-rending scenes, and, conducted by factors and foreigners in blood, ignorant of the language of and prejudiced against the people, it must be obvious to those acquainted with the strength of Highland attachments, that it could have been no easy task to convince the old cottars that they were entitled to no preference over the stranger from the South; or that they did not possess an hereditary right to a dwelling in the land preserved by the blood of their fathers, among the possessions of their chieftain. The late noble Duke, and Duchess-Countess, however, afforded every facility and encouragement to the people to establish themselves comfortably on the coasts, and expended munificent sums on roads and similar improvements; but the change came too suddenly on the settled and cherished habits of the peasantry. The undertaking was a bold one, and its accomplishment un-

avoidably involved, in some measure, a disregard of human feeling; and what followed, we believe, is now universally regarded as a warning to proprietors not to tamper too hastily or extensively with the interests or even the prejudices of any large bodies of people.* As to the question, whether the country might have been turned to better account than it has been, we believe the noble proprietor is now satisfied that large tracts recently under the plough, will be more productive by being planted with trees, and that the enormous sheep-farms of the interior should be broken down into smaller holdings, and the ancient practice of having on each some corn-land and pasture for cattle as well as sheep, revived. In fact the increase of the population in the little hamlets and hill-sides, next the eastern sea, has become of late so great, and exceeds so manifestly the resources of the peasantry, that the present Duke has seen the necessity of giving them room to spread again towards the interior, and has thus announced his intention, when the current leases are expired, to create a number of farms not exceeding £50 of yearly rent, besides having a body of wealthier tenantry, paying from £300 to £800 a-year. The crofters just now pay mere trifles, and in the villages, even of Dornoch and Golspie, excellent building-stances, with large gardens attached, may be had for from 5s. to 10s. a-year. It is generally understood that the present and late noble Dukes have for a long time expended the whole rental upon local improvements, a fact, even with their munificent outlay, most anomalous and unexampled.

The improved aspect of the country as yet extends to no great distance from the coast. Beyond the first line of hills, which in general are not so much as two miles distant from the sea, innumerable chains of wild bleak mountains present themselves, covered only with heath, and but occasionally interspersed with green valleys. These mountains, without any change of appearance or variety of vegetable productions, proceed quite across the county to the rocky shores of the Northern Ocean.

* One of the most irritating features of the Sutherland *clearings* was the imprudent observance of a most unnecessary formality—the *setting fire* to the houses of the ejected tenantry, instead of simply unroofing them. Another circumstance which agitated the people most powerfully, was, that when the 93d regiment of Highland foot was embodied on the Links of Dornoch, at a time of great national alarm, the soldiers' families and relatives were promised to be continued in their small holdings,—a promise which, they allege, was afterwards forgotten; and that arrangements were made for dispossessing them at the very moment these poor fellows were shedding their blood for their country before the entrenchments of New Orleans.

21. Mr. Hill's inn and posting establishment, at the thriving village of Golspie, is decidedly the best and most commodious in the extreme north, and in a most romantic situation. A mile and a half above the inn there is a beautiful cascade, to which a winding path leads through the wood, and thence westward to the monument on Ben Brachy, past the resident factor's beautiful house at Rhives. Private drives have here been commenced, above and out of sight of the post road, on which we hope her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen may yet find health and enjoyment. From Golspie double-seated mail-gigs, cars, already alluded to (page 401), proceed twice a-week to Tongue and Lochinver by Bonar Bridge.

Close by is Dunrobin Castle ("the Erle of Sutherland his speciall residence," to quote the words of Sir Robert Gordon the family historian, who wrote about 1630), "a house well seated upon a mote hard by the sea, with fair orchards, wher ther be pleasant gardens, planted with all kinds of froots, hearbs, and floors, used in this kingdom, and abundance of good *saphorn, tobacco, and rosemarie*, the froot being excellent, and cheeflie the pears and cherries." This castle was founded by Robert, second Earl of Sutherland, A.D. 1097 (whence its name Dunrobin), and is beautifully surrounded with trees, in which are concealed two older burghs or dunes attributed to the Danes. The view from the top of the tower, the paintings in the public rooms, and especially the series of old Scottish portraits, and the elegant breed of Highland cattle, for which the parks of Dunrobin are celebrated, rendered the old castle, as it stood some years ago, worthy of admiration.* But now it has become, by recent ad-

* Whether the *Catti* were of German or original Gaelic extraction, and whether as strangers, they had an allotment of land from the Scottish King Galgacus, for their having assisted him against the Romans, in the districts "be north of the Morays, which almost lay void of inhabitants, and was by them called CATTY;" or whether, as Highlanders contend, the name was derived from the victory of one of their early leaders over the wild cats which infested the country—are questions that may well be left to the learned. One point, however, is clear, that Caithness proper was long ruled by Scandinavian Jarls, whose sway extended over great portions of Sutherland, *(or Caithness citra Montem)*, and especially in the interior and north-west coast, and that the Gaelic *Maormor*, or, as he is sometimes called Thane of Sutherland, held the very circumscribed bounds between the Ord and the Oikel Water, which were sometimes completely overrun by the Norwegians, and the people almost extirpated. "There are, consequently," (says Mr. Skene on the Highlanders of Scotland, vol. ii. p. 301), "no Highland clans whatever descended from the Gaelic tribe which anciently inhabited the district of Sutherland; and the modern Gaelic population of that region is derived from two other sources. In the first place, several of the tribes of the neighbouring district of Ross, at an early period gradually spread themselves into the nearest and most mountainous parts of the country, and they consisted chiefly of the clan *Anrias* or *Ross*. Secondly, Hugh Freskin, a descendant of Freskin de Moravia, and whose family was a branch of the ancient Gaelic tribe of Moray" (though by

ditions, one of the most princely palaces in the kingdom, and undoubtedly one of the largest in Scotland. Among the multitude of high towers and fretted pinnacles the old castle is almost lost, except on the seaward side, where its humble but dignified old tower and plain front form the western corner of the building. East of these a magnificent elevation of four storeys, springing from a terraced basement, and pierced with rows of oriel and plain windows, beautifully finished with varied tabling, forms an extensive frontage which rises to a great height, and over which a number of towers, turrets, and minarets, reach up into the sky, backed on the north by the lofty and very steep roof of the great entrance tower, which is at least 100 feet high. The general character of the whole building is that of a very large French chateau or German palace, with details in the scroll work and roofs of the chambers, borrowed from the best old Scottish models. The grand entrance

many he is believed to be of a Flemish or Anglo-Saxon race), "obtained from King William the Lion, the territory of Sutherland, although it is impossible to discover the circumstances which occasioned the grant." Freskin was undoubtedly not the descendant of two previous *Earls* of Sutherland, claimed by the family, as to the first of whom it is alleged that his *Thanedom* was converted into an *Earldom* by Malcolm Caenmore about 1057, but the family power and possessions became extensive and permanent in consequence of the severe personal vengeance taken by King William on Harold and the insurgents of Caithness, (who were continually molesting the Scottish provinces), *lege talionis*, by which their "blood was utterly extinguished." The vigorous government of Alexander II., who "planted his standard on the cliffs of Thurso," seems to have secured the separation and independence of Sutherland from the northern *Jarldom*, and by that monarch it was afresh erected into an earldom. Agreeably, however, to Gaelic customs, the Earl has always been styled in his own country *Moror Chatt*, thus excluding the Scandinavian term *Jarl*, and the Scottish titles of *Thane* and *Earl*; and the succession continued uninterruptedly in males, under the surname of Sutherland, for the lifetime of thirteen earls, when, about the year 1500, the title and estates having devolved on a female, Lady Elizabeth, married to Adam Gordon, Lord Aboyne, (second son of George, Earl of Huntly), the family honours passed to the Gordons, by whom they were handed down to the late estimable and talented Duchess-Countess, the last of the pure old Scottish blood. Throughout their history, the Earls of Sutherland were remarked for their attachment to the church, and for the personal piety of several of them. They early embraced the change of opinions introduced by the Reformation, and afterwards assumed those of the Presbyterian party. It is a remarkable fact, that there is not a single Roman Catholic to this day within the county. With Lord Reay and the Baron of Foulis, they twice (in 1624 and 1629) raised 3000 followers, who went over to Germany and were highly distinguished in the armies of Gustavus Adolphus. They were leaders in the Covenanting army in the north of Scotland; and the clan boast that the Earl of Sutherland took part in the celebrated General Assembly at Glasgow in 1638, where, however, he seems to have had influence enough to have saved the Bishop of Sutherland and Caithness from *excommunication*, along with the rest of the Episcopal prelates, on his submitting himself to Presbyterian rule; though Keith says he was "deprived;" and the Earl also subsequently protected in their livings several of his parochial clergy, who were admitted to be very pious men, on their nominally relinquishing their Episcopal orders. The family were uniform supporters of *Whig* principles, and among the best friends in the north of the Hanoverian dynasty; for the Earls of Sutherland took part in 1715 and '45, as well as previously, against the pretensions of the house of Stuart. The superficial extent of their prodigious territories in the North is little short of 2000 square miles.

and staircase are lined within with polished Caen stone; but the exterior is all of a hard white silicious freestone from Brora and Braambury Hill, on the Duke's own property. Internally the castle is arranged into suites of apartments, each containing a complete set of sitting rooms and bed chambers, and named the Duke's—the Argyle—the Blantyre apartments, and those of other members of the family; and each suite has its own peculiar style and colour of decorations and painting. The grand seaward front has been appropriated to her Majesty, whose apartments are separated from the rest of the palace by a wide gallery or passage. They are done up in the most costly and elegant manner, with silk tapestry hangings in some of the rooms instead of papering. From the oriel window of her bedroom, her Majesty will command, in one view, the whole circuit of her dominions, from Ben Wyvis in Ross round by the Alps of Inverness, Moray, and Aberdeen shires, and across the firth almost to the Ord of Caithness, which is concealed from view only by a projecting headland; while the mid-distance is beautifully varied by the yellow sands of the Dornoch Firth, and the rocky promontory and high bright lighthouse on Tarbat Ness.

Extensive as the buildings are, the entire design will not be finished until another tower or two and the family chapel are added, and in the former of which we presume it is intended to have a great feudal receiving room; for the present main dining room, large though it be (and which is beautifully pannelled with oak, with large paintings inserted in the compartments and processions in the frieze), seems yet rather small for the reception of all the company—the tenantry, and native retainers of the noble Duke and his guests, who on state occasions may be convened to enjoy his hospitality. The furniture, now being placed in the different rooms, with the paintings and decorations, is of the most chaste and beautiful description, and it is pleasing to know that all the carpets and hangings have been cut out to order by the young women of the neighbourhood. Two very beautiful and effective mantle-pieces of great size and height, representing the Sutherland arms and their supporters, in alto-relievo, are also the work of a local sculptor, Mr. Munro, a native of Inverness, a protege of her Grace the Duchess, and who has been extensively employed by Mr. Barry in the carved work of the new Houses of Parliament.

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Below the castle the old garden and orchard occupied the level space extending to the sea beach. It was till of late, like the gardens at Ospisdale and Skibo, celebrated for its peaches, apricots, nectarines, figs, and almonds, which all ripened on the open wall. These have now been removed, and the whole plain is being converted into a flower garden, with walls and flights of steps leading up to the basement storey of the castle. Should the whole design, as planned by his Grace, ever be completed, including the chapel, landscape gardens, drives, and pleasure grounds, the entire cost will not fall far short of half a million sterling!

22. Brora, five miles and a half from Golspie, is a little village, for some years dependent on the salt and coal works carried on in its vicinity; now chiefly supported by the produce of the quarries of beautiful, though rather brittle, freestone found in its neighbourhood. The former have been discontinued. To the geologist this place presents the most interesting appearances perhaps in Scotland, as regards the occurrence of coal and its associated minerals in the immediate neighbourhood of granite. The formation with which the coal is connected is the lias and oolite, the principal bed of coal being about two hundred feet beneath the surface. The freestone or sandstone which composes the upper bed, and which abounds in organic remains, is adapted for building; and at Helmsdale, and other places not far distant, a fine secondary limestone, called cornstone, occurs.*

* Referring to the geological notices of Moray and Inverness shires, at pages 344 and 382, we shall complete them by the following short description of the *Brora Coal Field*:—On passing the granitic mass of the Ord of Caithness from the north, we come immediately upon a series of oolitic and lias deposits, a great portion of which has been tilted up against the granite without the intervention of the old red sandstone, and which is also brecciated, establishing thereby the elevation of the granite subsequent to the formation of the oolitic rocks. These newer deposits stretch along the coast of the firth, and are found not only in Sutherlandshire, but also in front of the gneiss and older sandstone mountains of Ross-shire, their most recent beds appearing in the promontory of Tarbat Ness, which was flanked on the sea-side by exterior layers of lias shale, and limestone; the remains of these being still visible at Cadboll, Geanies, Shandwick, and Ethie.

Proceeding westward from the Ord, the Brora coal field first merits our attention. It forms a part of the deposits which, on the coast of Sutherlandshire, occupy a tract of country of about twenty miles in length, from the Ord to Golspie, and three miles in its greatest breadth, divided into the valleys of Brora, Loth, and Navidale, by the successive advance to the coast of portions of the adjoining mountain range which bounds them on the west and north-west. The first of these valleys is flanked on the south-west by hills of red conglomerate, which pass inland to the north-east of Loch Brora, and give place to an unstratified granitic rock, that forms the remainder of the mountainous boundary.

The highest beds at Brora consist of a white quartzose sandstone, partially overlaid by a fissile limestone containing many fossils, the greatest number of which have

23. An excursion of a few miles up the Strath and Loch of Brora, will be found very interesting, as the scenery is beautiful, giving place gradually, as we proceed, to wild and heathy mountains. The rock Carrol, on the south shore of the loch, is precipitous for nearly four hundred feet; and opposite it, four miles up, is Killin, where anciently there was a cell or chapel, dedicated to St. Columba, who was truly the most extensive patron saint in the Highlands. From it is evidently derived the name of the beautiful residence, (two miles farther on), *Kilcalmkill*, which was the seat of a respectable branch of the clan Gordon, descended from Adam Gordon, Dean of Caithness, uncle of Lord Aboyne, who married Countess Elizabeth,

been identified with those of the calcareous grit beneath the *coral rag*; and along with these, several new species have been discovered. The next beds, in a descending order, are obscured in the interior by the diluvium which is generally spread over the surface of these valleys, but are exposed on other places on the coast; and they consist of shale, with the fossils of the *Oxford clay* overlying a limestone resembling *cornbrash* and *forest marble*, the latter associated with calciferous grit. To these succeed sandstone and shale, containing belemnites and ammonites, through which the shaft of the present coal-pit is sunk to the depth of near eighty yards below the level of the river Brora. The principal bed of coal is three feet five inches in thickness, and the roof is a sandy calcareous mixture of fossil shells, and a compressed assemblage of leaves and stems of plants passing into the coal itself. The fossils of this and the superior beds are identical, for the greater part, with those which occur in the strata above the coal in the east of Yorkshire; and of the whole number of species collected, amounting to upwards of fifty, two-thirds are well-known fossils of the *oolite*, the remainder being new species.

The plant of which the Brora coal seems to have been formed is identical with one of the most characteristic vegetables of the Yorkshire coast; but differs essentially from any of the plants found in the coal measures beneath the new red sandstone. It has been formed into a new genus by Mr. König, and is described by him under the name of *Oncylogonatum*; but M. A. Brongniart regards it as an *Equisetum*, which he has figured and named *Equisetum columnare*.

The Brora coal may therefore be considered, from its associated shells and plants, as the equivalent of that of the eastern moorlands of Yorkshire, and in no respect analagous to the coal fields of the south of Scotland.

At Loth, Helmsdale, and Navidale, shale and sandstone overlie calcareous strata resembling the *cornbrash* and *forest marble*; and these are, in many cases, dislocated where they are in contact with the granitic rock, and distorted where they approach it. The base of the entire series above mentioned is seen, at low water, on the coast, near the north and south Sutors of Cromarty, where the *lias*, with some of its characteristic fossils, is observable, resting upon the sandstone of the red conglomerate —the latter in contact with the granitic rock.

Braambury and Hare Hills, near Brora, composed of the upper beds of the oolitic series, owe their forms most probably to denudation; a supposition recently confirmed by the exposure on their surface of innumerable parallel furrows and irregular scratches, both deep and shallow: such, in short, as could scarcely be produced by any other operation than the rush of rock fragments transported by some glacier or current. These appearances resemble very closely those in other places described by Sir James Hall and Dr. Buckland; and show, here, that the course of the current which gave rise to them observed a direction by the compass, from north-west to south-east. (See the papers in the Geological Society's Transactions for 1827, &c., by Sir Roderick J. M. Murchison, and Rev. A. Sedgwick.)

At Inverbrora, Mr. Robertson of Elgin was enabled to detect the remains of a deposit of the *wealden*, having the usual characteristic organisms of that *fresh-water formation*, and resembling especially those in the wealden clay of Moray shire.

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daughter of the fourteenth Earl of Sutherland. Two miles farther north is *Cole's Castle*, an ancient Pictish fortress of most prodigious strength, situated on a rock on the Black Water or river of Strathbeg. It is circular, and built of uncemented stones, with chambers in the walls, and it seems to be as entire as Dun Dornadilla in Strathmore.

24. The distance from Brora to Loth Church, one of the neatest in the county, is six or seven miles ; and thence two to three miles to Port Gower, where are a neat little village, a good inn, and the parish school. In the secure little bay of Helmsdale, two miles from Port Gower, a harbour has been formed for the herring busses, which collect here in great numbers, reckoning it the safest station on the coast. The village is thriving and populous, and possesses a sub-branch bank. From Helmsdale a road branches to the left for Kildonan Kirk, about six miles off, whence it is continued north to Melvich inn, about twenty miles west of Thurso. The stage is just thirty miles long, and twenty miles of it uninhabited ; and the only comfortable consideration is, that the road is good. Adjoining Helmsdale are the ruins of a romantic old castle, once the seat of an extensive proprietor of the name of Gordon. On occasion of some unfortunate broil, he had to fly with his family under the silence of night ; but the ship which conveyed them foundered at sea, and they were never heard of.

25. Between Helmsdale and Berridale (nine miles and a half) the road passes, at an elevation of 1200 feet above the sea, along the acclivity of the granitic Ord of Caithness, which is the commencement of a long chain of mountains running north-west, and separating Caithness from Sutherland. The whole of this stage is occupied by the Ord, and its huge ramifications ; but the passage of these, though tedious, is now comparatively free from danger. Formerly the road proceeded along the edge of a tremendous range of precipices, which overhang the sea, the very sight of which was enough to frighten both horse and rider. Even the modern descent to the valley of Berridale, where the beautifully situated little inn of that name occupies the centre of a chasm hollowed out among the mountains at the junction of two alpine streams, is exceedingly abrupt.* Descending to the inn, Langwell (Donald

* It is considered unlucky for a Sinclair to cross the Ord on a Monday, *because* it was on that day that a large party of the name passed on their way to Flodden Field, where they were cut off to a man.

Horne, Esq.) appears on the left, within the edge of a thriving plantation. Here, towards the sea, we behold the commencement of those grand cliffs and stacks, or detached pillars of rock, which accompany us thence round all the coasts of Caithness. A few trees, the most vigorous in the county, ornament this spot, and were planted under the eye of the justly celebrated Sir John Sinclair, Bart. Between Berridale and Swiney (twelve miles and a half), the country again presents a sudden change of character. The mountains recede inland, and give place to bleak, open tracts, partially cultivated; and a barrier of high, shelterless precipices, washed by the ocean, extends on the right of the observer to the distant horizon.

26. Caithness may be described as a broad, undulating plain, devoid of trees, but covered with stunted heath—in some places, also, by deep peat mosses. The dwellings of its peasantry very generally till of late were, and still in part are, poor hovels, built of turf and stones in alternate layers, and thatched over with straw or sods, which are kept down by straw ropes thrown across the roof, to the end of which flat stones are attached as safeguards against the violence of the winds. Yet Caithness is not a poor county; and its agricultural products are greater than those of some others of the northern shires. Its advance in all sorts of agricultural improvements, and in rearing the finest stocks of cattle, has of late years been prodigious; and the last Highland Society's Exhibition at Inverness proved that Caithness henceforth will not yield the palm to any of her neighbours. Its gentry are hospitable, polished, and well educated. The ruins of their ancient towers crown the cliffs of their rugged shores, as if still watching the approach of the northern pirates; and some of these are even yet habitable. The Scandinavian origin, or at least admixture of the people, is portrayed in their tall forms, and soft fair countenances; the names of places, and the language generally spoken, show undoubted marks of a foreign extraction; and nowhere in the county, except on the borders of Sutherland, are Gaelic sounds to be heard. At Dunbeath, seven miles and a half from Berridale, there are an ancient village, and the ruins of Dunbeath Castle.

27. Three miles from Dunbeath, we reach the church and manse of Latheron. On the north of the manse, a branch road strikes off to the west for Thurso, by Achbreanich, where there

is a tolerable inn, six miles from Latheron, and sixteen from Thurso. On this road there is a good view of the hills called the Paps of Caithness, behind the Ord ; and of Braal Castle, surrounded with wood, an interesting spot a mile to the left. It surmounts an eminence on the banks of the Thurso, about five miles from that town, near the junction of this branch with the Wick and Thurso road ; and is not a little deserving the attention of the antiquary, as exhibiting a style of building apparently but a stage in advance of the round burghs or towers. The form here is square, and cement is used ; but the disposition of the apartments is much the same as that of the galleries in the burghs. They are contained in the wall itself, and open into the inner court or area, and communicate by passages and staircases similarly situated. These rooms, of which there is one on each side, have, however, an external window, and are moreover furnished with a stone bench round the inside. Oldwick Castle is a similar, but rather ruder structure still.

28. Wick lies fifteen miles farther north than Swiney inn, two miles past Latheron ; and Thurso, at which the mail-coach road stops, is twenty miles beyond Wick.

Like many mighty cities, these two burghs contend with one another for pre-eminence. Thurso, though more beautifully situated, and withal the genteeler of the two, must yield to its rival in the bustle of life and mercantile wealth. Wick lies low, and in a dirty situation ; and, but for the stream which passes through it, and the sharp breezes of the north, the smell of its fish and garbage would be intolerable. Though the bay is long and dangerous, and hemmed in on both sides by high rocks, it is the resort of a great many fishing vessels ; and in the proper season the town swarms with crowds of Lowland Scotchmen, fair Northmen, broad-breeched Dutchmen, and kilted Highlanders. No sight can be more beautiful than the look-out, on a fine summer's morning, from the seaward cliffs near the town, on the surface of the ocean, bespangled with, perhaps, from 500 to 800 herring boats, either sailing in lines to or from their stations, or busied hauling in their nets, or rowing round them to guard and watch the indications of their buoys. Larger vessels gliding on among this small craft seem like stately swans surrounded by a flock of lively sea-gulls ; and here and there the broad pennon of a revenue cruiser, and the swift

light-rowing boats of the preventive service, remind us that no small degree of caution and order is required to be maintained among the numerous little objects dancing on the waves before us, like the motes in a sunbeam. During the fishing season, the busy hand of industry is tried to the utmost, and man, woman, and child, are obliged to bear "watching, and labour, and pain." Wick carries on its trade principally through a small village, Staxigo, situated a short way to the eastward, near the lofty promontory called Noss-head, and which possesses a convenient harbour. Its own harbours are improving; and its suburb, called Pulteneytown, planned under the auspices of the British Fishery Society, and built, in 1808, on higher ground than the old town, is a regular and handsome village. The population of the parish was, in 1831, 9580, being an increase of 3137 since 1821; and, in 1841, the numbers fell to 9346. The following statement respecting the Wick herring fishery for 1829 and 1840, will give an idea of the bustle of the place during that season of the year, and the great value of the fishery. The apparent falling off latterly is owing to the resort of many boats to Helmsdale:—

	1829.	1840.
Boats belonging to Wick engaged in	457	428
Do. not belonging to the district.....	498	327
Total number of boats.....	955	755
Fishermen	3,761	3,882
Curers (only 91 regularly entered in 1840) ...	1,146	91
Women (chiefly employed in gutting the fish)	2,937	2,175
Coopers	442	265
Carters.....	117	127
Other labourers	177	196
Seamen in coasting vessels for carrying away herrings.....	3,200	1,200
Total number of persons employed ...	11,780	7,936
Total of barrels cured.....	112,698	63,495

Owing to the establishment of fishing-stations on other parts of the coast, the attendance of boats at Wick (which at one time amounted to about 1200) has fallen off, and perhaps fortunately so for the morals of the people; but the success of their exertions varies exceedingly in different seasons. The following comparative statement will give a tolerable idea of

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the whole take of herring for two years on the east coast of Scotland. We extract it from the *John-o'-Groat Journal*, which is published at Wick :—

QUANTITY OF HERRINGS CURED.

	1835.	1836.
Peterhead	33,000 Barrels	44,000 Barrels.
Fraserburgh	54,000 ditto	45,000 ditto.
Banff	24,000 ditto	18,000 ditto.
Cullen	5,000 ditto	3,000 ditto.
Findhorn	8,000 ditto	6,000 ditto.
Cromarty	7,000 ditto	7,000 ditto.
Helmsdale	28,000 ditto	18,000 ditto.
Lybster	32,000 ditto	15,000 ditto.
Wick	106,000 ditto	40,000 ditto.
Thurso and Tongue	22,000 ditto	7,000 ditto.
Orkney	45,000 ditto	28,000 ditto.
Shetland	38,000 ditto	27,000 ditto.
Berwick		30,000 ditto.

The cost of a boat, with outfit of nets, is about £120. A drift of nets consists of from sixteen to twenty-six, each about sixteen fathoms long and four deep. The fisher generally receives from 9s. to 10s. a cran or barrel for the herrings; and a crew (four in number), when proprietors of the boat, sometimes make £20, £30, and even £50, a-head. The wages allowed for about two months' service—from the middle of July to September—are £3 to £7, and a peck and a-half of meal a-week. Poor widows and girls are employed to gut and pack at about 4d. per barrel; they make 20s. to £3 a season. Whisky is consumed among all to a most enormous and demoralising extent.

Wick and Pulteneytown present numerous proofs of growing prosperity in the style of the newer houses and the public buildings, as the town-house and jail, the town and county hall, new church, bank, and gas-work. Wick has been incorporated as a royal burgh since 1589; and, since the Union, it has been associated with Kirkwall, Dornoch, Tain, and Dingwall (and, since the late Reform Act, with Cromarty), in returning a member to Parliament. The Sheriff-courts, since 1828, by order of the Court of Session, are held in Wick, having been then removed from Thurso, where they had previously met from time immemorial. The Custom-house establishment has also been removed to Wick, which likewise possesses a Chamber of Commerce; and a steamer, of 200 horse-power, touches here from Leith once

a-week, between March and November, on its passage from that port to Aberdeen, Kirkwall, and Lerwick in Shetland. It carries passengers, stock, and goods, and has been of immense use both to town and county. Two trading smacks ply once a-fortnight between Leith and Wick; and an almost constant intercourse is carried on with London, Hull, and other English ports, by means of the vessels which are continually passing along this coast.

We subjoin, in the foot-note, a sketch of the early history of the county, from the last statistical account of the parish of Wick; and we also beg to refer, on the same head, to our historical notices of Orkney.*

29. Besides the parliamentary road to Thurso, a district road, twenty-seven miles long, leads along the coast to Houna and John-o'-Groat's House. On the way there is an extensive sweep of sands to pass over, a ferry on Waster Water, and several bleak hills. The view of the cliffs next the sea, however, is always grand and interesting; and the castles of Oldwick, Keiss, Girnigo, and Sinclair, with the tower of Ackergill, &c., perched like eagles' nests on their summits, render these cliffs still more picturesque and magnificent. These "dark places of the earth" were truly full of horrid cruelty. Thus, about the year 1570, George, Earl of Caithness, apprehended his own eldest son, and

* "There can be no doubt that the aboriginal inhabitants of the district which now forms the parish of Wick, were of Celtic origin. This is proved by several names of places and rivulets, such as Auchairn, Altimarloch, Drumdrug, which are significant in the Gaelic language.

"About the year 910, Harrold the Fair-haired, a Norwegian King, having expelled the pirates who infested the northern seas, from the Orkneys, carried the war into Pictland, where he was defeated with great slaughter. On his return to Norway, he granted the Orcadian islands to Ronald, a powerful Norwegian chieftain, to comfort him for the loss of Ivar, his son, who had fallen in battle. Ronald made over this grant to Sigurd, his brother, who, having speedily reduced the Orcadians, passed into Caithness and subdued it, with Sutherland and Ross, under his authority. Under a succession of Norwegian earls, a very close and frequent intercourse subsisted after this event for ages, between the north of Scotland and Norway; whence numerous bands of Norwegians successively came and settled in Caithness. Surnames of Norwegian extraction, as Swanson, son of Swen, Manson, son of Magnus, Ronald, Harold, &c., are frequent in this parish. The termination *ster*, softened from *stadr*, *a steading*, which enters into the names of Camster, Ulbster, Stemster, Hanster, Thuster, Bilbster, Sibster, &c., shews also the prevalence of Norwegian colonization within the district now forming the parish of Wick. . . . . .

"Caithness continued subject to Orcadian earls, of Scandinavian extraction, till about 1330, when, owing to the failure of the male line, this earldom went by marriage into other families, and the power and influence of the Norwegians passed away. . . . . .

"These various marriages brought the Sinclairs, Sutherlands, and Keiths, into the parish of Wick; and subsequent events gave rise to the following couplet, which is yet often repeated:—

"Sinclair, Sutherland, Keith, and Clan Gun,
There never was peace whar thae four war in."

confined him in the dungeon of Castle Girnigo, where, after a miserable captivity of seven years, the unfortunate youth is believed to have died of starvation. Ackergill is still habitable, and is well worthy of being inspected, and may give a good notion of the rude strongholds which frowned along this iron-bound coast. "It is a square tower, 65 feet in height; and in breadth, at each angle, 45 feet, having three storeys, each of them arched, the walls above 10 feet thick at the butts of the arches. It stands on a rock close to the sea, a few feet above the highest water-mark, and is defended by a moat twelve feet deep, and equally broad, extending along each of its angles, excepting the one facing the sea." But among the many fearful stories with which the history of Caithness abounds, one of the most extraordinary relates to so recent a period as 1680. In the summer of that year, 700 Argyle Highlanders suddenly appeared in Caithness, in support of the king's patent of the earldom, which had been granted three years before to Campbell of Glenorchy, afterwards created Earl of Breadalbane, and whose pretensions were resisted by George Sinclair of Keiss. So lawless and peculiar was the condition of Scotland at that time, that here we see a subject arming his vassals, and waging war in support of his private legal claims! The infatuated Sinclairs, instead of encountering their foes at the Ord, trusting to their superior numbers, awaited their arrival in the vicinity of Wick, and sat up all night drinking and carousing. Still reeling from their potations, they attacked the Campbells next morning at *Alt-a-Mhairlich*, two miles west of Wick, where their enemies were advantageously posted, and who received them steadily. The Caithness men were routed, and pursued for many miles with great slaughter. It was on this *raid* that the well-known quick steps, "The Campbells are coming," and "The Braes of Glenorchy," obtained their names.

30. Who has not heard of the inn of Houna, "that pretty little circle on Mr. Arrowsmith's map," so poor and humble, yet withal so hospitable and cheering to the way-worn traveller; or of the stacks of Duncansbay, the Berubium of Ptolemy; of John-o'-Groat's House; of the rocky shores and shell-banks of the Pentland Firth? At the famed John-o'-Groat's is to be seen merely the indented site of a house on a small green knoll close to the beach. John was a worthy Dutchman, who settled here about the year 1509, and whose sons or kinsmen having

disputed for precedency at table, he contrived the expedient of erecting an octagonal room with a door on each side, and a table to correspond, that each member of the household might be able to enter at his own door, and sit as at the head of his own board. The bold adjoining headland of Duncansbay, with its numerous deep and lengthened chasms or ghoes, and curious detached stacks or columns of rock in the sea, is well worthy of inspection.

31. Authors and artists, poets and historians, have vied with one another in delineating the dangers and the wonders which beset the northern coasts of sea-girt Albion. But who has yet fully described the life and majesty of that vast body of moving waters—this eastern gulf-stream of the Atlantic—the force of all its united tides hurrying on with the same impulses and in the same direction which here pour through the narrow opening between us and the Orcades? The Pentland Firth is the throat connecting the Atlantic and German Oceans. From the Hebrides and Cape Wrath, the flow of the former comes rolling on in one uniform unbroken stream. As it approaches the Eastern Sea, it is dashed and buffeted against the projecting headlands of Caithness and Orkney, which contract its channel, and send it spouting on between them with increased velocity and the utmost agitation. No wonder, then, that this strait should be the dread of mariners, or that vessels unfortunately entering it in a calm, should be kept for days together tossed about and carried from side to side by the conflicting currents and the alternate ebbs and flows, while, with contrary winds, the passage is still more tedious and difficult.*

* In the evidence submitted to the House of Commons, along with the Report of Sir Edward Parry on the Caledonian Canal, many curious anecdotes are related, showing the detention which vessels often are subjected to in attempting to pass from one side of the island to the other through the Pentland Firth. Thus, a house in Newcastle despatched two vessels on the same day, one for Liverpool by the north of Scotland, and the other south by the English Channel and the Cape of Good Hope, for Bombay in the East Indies. The latter reached its destination first! We also happen to know that, not many years ago, a shipowner at Inverness sent off a vessel on *Christmas day* for Liverpool, and which had to go "round about," as the Caledonian Canal was then undergoing some repair. On the 1st of January she got into Stromness harbour in Orkney, along with a fleet of other traders, and there they lay weather-bound till the middle of *April*, when the Inverness skipper was the first to venture out in prosecution of his voyage!

Dunnet Head, the most northerly point of the mainland, and on which a fine beacon light has been erected, is one of the best places for viewing the commotions of the Pentland Firth, and the wild and sublime scenery by which it is surrounded. The late Statistical Account of the parish thus describes the changing appearance of the sea. "The current in the Pentland Firth is exceedingly strong during spring tides, so that no vessel can stem it. The flood-tide runs from west to east at the rate of ten miles an hour, with new and full moon. It is then high-water at Scarfskerry (which is about three miles distant from Dunnet Head) at nine o'clock. Immediately

32. The road from Houna to Thurso, about eighteen miles distant, proceeds along the margin of the firth. The views which are obtained in different parts of it, of the Isles of Orkney, the Pentland streams, and the projecting points of the mainland of Caithness, are so grand and varied, that no one who can command his time should quit the country without seeing them. The improvements of the late Sir John Sinclair, of James Traill, Esq. of Ratter, and James Smith, Esq. of Olrig, in regard to agriculture and the planting and reclaiming of waste lands, deserve particular notice; and much may be gathered from an examination of their estates, as to the management of lands exposed in a similar manner to the bitter northern blasts, and the blighting influence of the sea breeze. These gentlemen have demonstrated how capable the peasantry are of being improved and rendered comfortable, and at the same time of adding to the wealth of the proprietors; and indeed the statistical accounts of the whole of this district show that the poorer tenantry require only moderate-sized holdings, leases of a fair endurance, with prohibitions against *squatting* and subsetting, and ready access to markets by roads and steamers, in order to acquire independence, and by their increase in numbers, to be a blessing instead of a burden to the country. At Castlehill, Mr. Traill for many years employed a number of labourers in quarrying pavement for the southern cities and towns, and besides occupying about 4000 tons of shipping, from three to four hundred thousand square feet of stone are annually exported.

33. Thurso, or Thor's Town, a burgh of barony holding of Sir George Sinclair as superior, and containing about 2400 inhabitants, is little more than half the size of Wick, and is an irregularly built town. It contains, however, some neat

as the water begins to fall on the shore, the current turns to the west; but the strength of the flood is so great in the middle of the firth, that it continues to run east till about twelve. With a gentle breeze of westerly wind, about eight o'clock in the morning the whole firth seems as smooth as a sheet of glass, from Dunnet Head to Hoy Head in Orkney. About nine the sea begins to *rage* for about 100 yards off the Head, while all without continues smooth as before. This appearance gradually advances towards the firth, and along the shore to the east, though the effects are not much felt upon the shore till it reaches Scarfskerry Head, as the land between these points forms a considerable bay. By two o'clock, *the whole firth seems to rage*. About three in the afternoon it is low-water on the shore, when all the former phenomena are reversed,—the smooth water beginning to appear next the land, and advancing gradually till it reaches the middle of the firth. To strangers the navigation is *very dangerous*, especially if they approach near the land. But the natives along the coast are so well acquainted with the direction of the tides, that they can take advantage of every one of these currents to carry them safe to one harbour or another. Hence very few accidents happen, but *from want of skill or knowledge of the tides*."

freestone houses in the suburbs, and the church is a building highly creditable to the taste of the heritors. To the east of the town stands a venerable old castle, the residence of Sir George Sinclair of Ulbster, Bart., and farther east, Harold's Tower, over the tomb of Earl Harold, the possessor at one time of half of Orkney, Shetland, and Caithness, and who fell in battle against his own namesake, Earl Harold the Wicked, in the year 1190. Close by the town, on the west side, are the ruins of a once extensive castle, a residence of the Bishops of Caithness, alluded to in Branch F. For the credit of Thurso, we are glad to say that it now possesses an excellent new inn. Great improvements have been projected in the neighbourhood of this town; but, besides being too far distant from the east coast of Scotland, and too near the Pentland Firth, the Bay of Thurso is itself too dangerous to admit of its ever being a resort for shipping; and, in consequence, the bounds to the increase of the town are almost already known. But who is he who finds himself on its beach, and thinks of the town or its resources? The lengthened waves thundering along the shores of the spacious crescent-shaped bay, arrest his attention as their curling crests break upon and splash up the sandy slope at his feet. The white streak and the hollow moan of each billow, as it yields up its power, lead away the eye and ear to the sides of the bay, formed of precipitous rocks, and terminated by the high bluff promontories of Holborn and Dunnet, over the top of which, though upwards of 400 feet in height, the spray dashes during storms, and on which even the sea pink and the short tufted grass hardly obtain a footing. In the distance, the prodigious western precipices of Hoy, which form, perhaps, the most magnificent range of cliff scenery in Britain, with the outlines of the Orkney hills, compose a most splendid termination to the seaward view. The traveller should not fail to walk as far as Holborn Head, where the majestic mural and fissured cliffs, with the Clett, a huge detached rock, the boundless expanse and heaving swell of old Ocean, and the clouds of screaming sea birds, afford a perfect epitome of this style of scenery. The sail across the firth from Thurso to Stromness, in Pomona, by the west of Hoy, is about twenty-four miles in length, and should not be attempted except in fine steady weather. A boat costs fifty shillings, with something additional if required to wait. By the east end of

Hoy, the navigation is longer, but comparatively free from danger.

In the branch route from Tongue, in Sutherlandshire, to Thurso, will be found a succinct account of the road between these two places. A mail-car, carrying four passengers, besides the driver, leaves Thurso every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, for Tongue (distance, 46 miles), returning the intermediate days. The road to Houna, a distance of 18 miles, is now much improved, and fitted for a gig or carriage.

ROUTE FOURTH.—BRANCH A.

BEAULY TO STRATHGLASS, GLENSTRATHFARAR, GLEN CANNICH, GLEN AFFRICK, AND THENCE TO KINTAIL.

Roads; Falls of Kilmorack; Old Church; Manse; The Drhuim; Isle of Aigas, 1.—Approach to Strathglass; Eskadale; Erchless Castle; Clan Chisholm; their late Chief, 2.—Beaufort; Fort Lovat; The Fentons; Grahams; Bissets; Sieges under Edward I. and Cromwell; Accommodations of the Eighteenth Century, 3.—Belladrum; Gleneonvinth; Ferries, 4.—Strathglass; Ancient Pine Forests; Lead Mine; Cross Roads to Urquhart; Bridge of Invercannich; Bridge and Chapel of Fasnakyle; Dun Fion, 5.—Geusachan; Termination of the Road; State of the Country in 1745-6.—Passes to the West Coast; Tracks, or Footpaths; Mountains on the Boundary between Inverness and Ross shires, 7.—Glenstrathfarar; Loch Miulie; Loch Monar; Great Deer Hunt, 8.—Scournalapich, and other Mountains and Valleys, on the route to Attadale, on Loch Carron; MacRaas of Kintail, 9.—Glen Cannich, 10.—The Chisholm's Pass; Falls of the Glass; Knockfin, 11.—Loch Bennevean, 12.—Loch Affrick; Resting-houses of Culivie and Annamulloch, 13. Mam Soul; Glaciers, 14.—Strath Affrick; Glen Greenivie; the Beallach; Crowe of Kintail; Falls of Glomak; Characters of the Scenery, 15.

	Miles.	Miles from Inverness.
1. From Beauly Inn to public house at Crask of Aigas, at the upper end of the Drhuim	6	16
Struy Bridge and Inn	4	20
Invercannich (p. h.)	7½	
Fasnakyle Bridge, where the road to the Chisholm's Pass, and Falls of the Glass strikes off	2½	30
Chisholm's Pass to Loch Bennevean	5	35
Annamulloch, west end of Loch Affrick, by footpath	10	45
Shielhouse, by the Beallach and Crowe of Kintail, about	17	62
2. From Struy Bridge, through Glenstrathfarar, to lower end of Loch Monar		16
Shepherds' cottages at upper end of Loch Monar	7	23
Thence to Attadale, on Loch Carron (no house by the way), equal to	20	43
Across Loch Carron to inn at Jeantown	2	45
3. From Struy, through Glen Cannich, to Invercannich	7½	27½

	Miles.	Miles from Inverness.
Shepherd's cot at Longart	15	42½
Thence to Killellan on Loch Long, 15 (no house by the way).		
Falls of Glomak, say	15	57½
Thence to Shielhouse	8	65½
4. Road by Kiltarlity on south side of Strathglass:—		
Inverness to Bogroy	7	
To the turn off towards Beaufort Castle, on the top of the ridge, 1½ mile from Beauly Bridge.....	3	10
N.B.—At Kiltarlity church, a good district road branches off to the south, through Glenconvinth, to Drumnadrochet, in Glen Urquhart, distant seven miles.		
Eskadale—public-house	5	15
N.B.—Below it is Aigas Ferry, on the river Beauly. Many tourists cross here, and proceed down through the Drhuim to the Falls of Kilmorack and Beauly.		
Mauld, opposite Erchless Castle—public-house	3	18
N.B.—A little above the junction of the Farar and Glass, there is a bridge on the latter communicating with that at Struy on the former, and with the road on the north side of the Glass, and affording a longer circuit than Aigas Ferry.		
Fasnakyle, where the roads on the opposite sides of the Strath unite	9	27
Geusachan House, at which the road stops.....	3	30
N.B.—At Crochiel, an old cart tract crosses the hill into Glen Urquhart; but a new district road is projected from Corrymony, which (about three miles in length) will descend on Strathglass, opposite Invercannich.		

1. We proceed to give in this route a short account of the upper portion of the river Beauly, including the valleys of Strathglass, Glen Cannich, and Glenstrathfarar, and the passes through them to the west coast, all of them being very interesting.

Returning to Lovat or Beauly Bridge, a road, as formerly mentioned, has been carried westward along the north bank of the Beauly, through the parish of Kilmorack, (the burying-ground of St. Marion), to the summit of the first-mentioned strath, which is about twenty-five miles distant. Another road nearly parallel to it, already referred to, runs on the opposite side of the river, through the parish of Kiltarlity; both uniting at the bridge of Fasnakyle, in Strathglass.

The lower falls of Kilmorack are situate about two miles west from Beauly, immediately beneath the parish church. They are less remarkable for their height, than for breadth and quantity of water, and for the beautiful accompaniments

of lofty rocks, smooth green banks, and hanging woods which encircle them. The river, dashing from between two lofty precipices, where it is confined to an extremely narrow channel, suddenly expands into an open semicircular basin, through which it slowly glides, and is then precipitated over its lower edge in a series of small cataracts. These falls are not sufficiently high or powerful to prevent salmon from getting up the river ; but the rocks next the shore being accessible, the fish are often caught by men who stand watching them, with hooks or spears fixed to long rods, and with which the salmon are seized when in the act of springing over the cascades. It is obvious that the sport is a dangerous one ; and many a stalwart Highlander has met his death by it. Below the falls, the stream flows on through a rich plain, overtopping which Beaufort is beheld to great advantage ; and close by, on the further bank, the visitor will perceive the ruins of the old church and the deserted manse of Kiltarlity, with the small adjoining burying-ground, which, as being the resting place of their forefathers, is still resorted to by the parishioners. On the Kilmorack side, the same objects of human mortality and affection are still more picturesquely situated ; the church and manse stand on a green bank a little above the road, but the burying-ground has been perched on the brink of the precipice overhanging the river.

Part of the same bank has been enclosed for the clergyman's garden, at the corner of which a summer house looks down into the deep gulf, where the torrent chafes and foams in its narrowed bed. Beyond the garden, the river forms some other cascades over shelving masses of red sandstone and conglomerate, and comes sullenly on, threading its way through a set of high precipitous cliffs clothed with the bright foliage of the birch-tree, and a thousand trailing shrubs ; its channel cut below, by the force of the stream, into small fantastic caves and boiling caldrons. The next group of waterfalls occurs about three miles up the river, at the top of a most romantic ride called "The Drhuim," which signifies a narrow pass. This is the most sweetly Highland and beautiful part of the course of the Beauly : on either hand the mountain acclivities are rather steep and rocky, and the valley between them is not a quarter of a mile broad ; but woods of birch and fir encompass the whole scene, especially on the north side ; and the edges of the

river are fringed all along with rows of oak, weeping birches, and alders. In one part, half up the strath, near the cottage of Teanassie (the burn of which will reward its being explored), the waters plunge through a rocky passage encircling high pyramids of stone, standing up in the midst of the stream, gigantic witnesses of its ceaseless and consuming power. Immediately below, the turmoil ceases, and the quieted element reposes in smooth dark linns; while the rocks at the same time recede and give place to soft daisied banks and sweet patches of corn land. On the southern shore, on a high conical mound rising above a perpendicular sheet of rock, is *Dun Fion*, a vitrified structure, which was laid open some years ago for the inspection of the curious by order of Lord Lovat. He has also formed a drive along the whole of his side of the river, which thus comprehends, as a part of his policies, this interesting piece of scenery. At the further end of the Drhuim, the road begins to ascend towards the interior of the country, and here the river is seen pouring down on each side of a high rounded hill, covered with oak and birch, at the lower extremity of which it forms the second set of small but beautiful cataracts. This wooded hill is the Island of Aigas—for the river parts into two, and encircles it—noted as having been the temporary retreat to which Simon, Lord Lovat, conducted the dowager Lady Lovat (whom he had forced to become his wife), when letters of fire and sword were issued against him and the principal families of his clan by King William, in 1697. Eilan Aigas is now more appropriately occupied by a beautiful villa, which is approached by a rustic bridge from the east side, and which was recently the summer retreat of Sir Robert Peel and his family.

2. On ascending the high ground opposite this island, another valley, of a very different character from that we have just passed, opens to view. Its surface is broad and flat, and has greatly the appearance of being the dried-up bed of an old inland lake; and along it the Beauly winds—a broad and sluggish stream, quite different in aspect from the impetuous torrent it appeared below. We are now approaching the confines of Strathglass, and the country assumes a wilder and rougher aspect. Under the brow of the wooded hill on the right, is the house of Aigas—a property lately added to the other possessions in this neighbourhood of the Chisholm of

Chisholm, and on the opposite side of the valley rises the elegant mansion of Eskadale (Thomas Fraser, Esq.): to the westward, the small hamlet of Wester Eskadale, behind which, though half concealed by the birch-trees, appear the white walls and pinnacles of a handsome Roman Catholic chapel, erected by Lord Lovat. Five miles on, the traveller arrives at Erchless, or Easter Glass Castle, a stately old tower modernized, surrounded by well-dressed grounds, the residence of "The Chisholm," whose estates lie on the north side of the Beauly, and in Strathglass, and extend over hundreds of hills to the westward.

We have already alluded to Sir Robert Chisholm as being king's constable of Urquhart Castle, on Loch Ness (see page 130), early in the fourteenth century. He appears to have been the founder of the family's greatness in the north, and by his alliance with the Lauders of Quarrelwood, in Moray, to have obtained extensive possessions in that county, in addition to his Inverness-shire estates. Under the titles of "Chisholm of Comar," "The Chisholm," or "Chisholm of Chisholm," the successive chiefs continued to rule over a respectable clan till the first rebellion of last century, when Laird Roderick, by joining the Stuarts' cause, was attainted, and his property forfeited to the crown, though he himself was subsequently pardoned. After passing through various hands, it was ultimately bought back (less a good many *slices* sold or *picked off* by friendly neighbours) for behoof of the family in the year 1774. The change of system in the management of Highland properties caused several large and heart-rending migrations of the clan to Canada. Hard by the castle is the picturesque "last resting-place" of the late chief, Alexander William Chisholm of Chisholm, for several years M. P. for the county of Inverness, and whose many virtues and ardent attachment to his kinsmen, and to the civil and religious institutions of his country, which he defended in many arduous struggles, will be long and fondly remembered.

3. Before proceeding up this valley, it is necessary to return to the spot where we parted from the post-road, between Inverness and Beauly, on the height above the Lovat Bridge, and bring on the description of the parish of Kiltarlity, on the south side of the country. A few hundred yards on from the main post-road, we pass, on the right, the porter's lodge at the en-

trance to the extensive and wooded policies of Beaufort Castle, which stands on the site of the old fortress of Beaufort, or Dunie, which, with its subsidiary fortalice, Lovat, is noticed in Scottish story as early as the era of Alexander I. Persons of the name of Fenton and Graham, who seem to have been numerous in the adjoining country, were governors or constables of these castles, even after the Bissets' lands, on which they stood, were given to the Frasers.

The Bissets themselves were an extremely powerful family, denizened in the north during the sway of Malcolm III. and William the Lion, and whose greatness seems to have reached its acme under the sovereignty of Alexander II. They possessed the Aird, a great part of Stratherrick, and Abertarff on Loch Ness; but their head being implicated in the murder of Patrick, Earl of Athole, in 1242, and subsequently in the rebellion of Donald, Lord of the Isles, the estate was forfeited, and of new granted to the Frasers, who originally appear in Caithness (then a part of Inverness-shire) so far back as 1296, from the counties of Peebles and Tweeddale.

In the year 1303, Beaufort sustained a regular siege by Edward I., whose army battered it with catapultæ, from trenches still visible on the opposite side of the river: it was also seized by Oliver Cromwell, and the citadel blown up; and, lastly, it was burnt and entirely razed to the ground by the royal troops, after the battle of Culloden. The accommodations of the fortress seem not to have been great; for Simon, Lord Lovat, is related, on the authority of Ferguson the astronomer, as having "received company and dined with them in the same room in which he slept. His lady's sole apartment was her bedchamber, and the only provision for lodging the domestics and the numerous herd of retainers, was a quantity of straw on the four lower rooms of the tower: sometimes above 400 persons were kennelled here."

4. Proceeding onwards, the road immediately winds in front of the pleasure-grounds of Belladrum (J. Stewart, Esq.), one of the most elegant and costly mansions and demesnes in the Highlands. The estate of Belladrum stretches southward up a pastoral dell called Glenconvinth, through which a new road leads across the hills into Glen Urquhart, on the side of Loch Ness. Glenconvinth takes its name from a nunnery, the foundations of which, in the centre of the valley, are still visible.

Crossing now over a long dreary ridge, we at length regain the course of the Beauly, as the island of Aigas, the fertile plains of Eskadale, and the distant woods of Struy and Erchless, suddenly burst on our sight. At Eskadale there is a ferry across the river, which affords a convenient means to the visitor of the Falls of Kilmorack and scenery of the Drhuim, to vary the homeward route to Inverness. The road passes from Eskadale towards Strathglass, past the hamlet and chapel before noticed.

5. Both sides of this valley may now be described together. Its course is nearly south-west, and almost rectilineal. It is throughout pastoral; traversed by a sluggish river, the overflowings of which give rise to the most luxuriant pastures, although at the same time they render the grounds rather too wet for cultivation. The sides of the glen are all along fringed with beautiful woods of birch, over which, in ancient days, large pine forests stretched up to the summit of the hills. Successive burnings—the necessities of the proprietors—the general introduction of sheep and cattle into the country (some will have it a change of climate), have entirely swept these away, and a few solitary trees, clinging to the precipices, or trunks dug up from the peat-mosses, are all that now remain to attest their former abundance. Strathglass was, at one period, a great storehouse for timber, and it contributed, in no small degree, to the scanty commerce which this country carried on. The Protector Cromwell used an immense quantity of the pine from the Struy estate in the construction of his fortifications at Inverness.

Near Little Struy, half a mile from the bridge, a lead mine, situate in a thick vein of heavy spar, traversing gneiss, was some years ago opened by Lord Lovat; but for the present it has been abandoned. The geologist will observe how powerful the *denuding* agents once were in Strathglass, and will have noticed, from Eilan Aigas upwards, the effects of undoubted glacial action in rounding, polishing, and scratching the ledges of the hard gneiss rocks of which the country is composed.

From Mid Crochiel a bridle road leads across the hills into Urquhart. Another path, farther up the glen, conducts from Geusachan to the same district, and another strikes farther west into Glen Moriston, while the new district road between Strathglass and Corrymony long projected, will, we trust, be

speedily formed, so as to enable the traveller to return from this excursion, if he pleases, by Glen Urquhart.

On the north side of Strathglass, about seven miles above Struy, a wild torrent comes pouring down from a glen on the right, called Glen Cannich, along the banks of which are seen two groups of black huts, styled Easter and Wester Invercannich. This stream is crossed by a strong massive bridge, from the farther end of which a branch road slants up the acclivity of the neighbouring hill, and, bringing us to a considerable elevation, ushers us on the upland glen, which we will presently describe.

Nearly opposite Invercannich, seven and a half miles from Struy, is the old clachan or chapel of Fasnakyle; the area of the sacred enclosure, with a small space around it, being occupied by the graves of the inhabitants of the glen. A little further on is the wide moor of Comar, the house of Fasnakyle, and a neat Roman Catholic chapel, embowered among weeping birches. At the bridge of Fasnakyle, the two Strathglass roads unite. Here the river Glass flows through a rocky channel, from a wooded glen, lying to the westward, which leads up by the Chisholm's Pass to Lochs Beneveian and Affrick, the main road deviating towards the south. The high bold crag, rising betwixt the two, and forming a conspicuous object through the greater part of Strathglass, is called Knockfin, or Fingal's Fort. It is surrounded on the summit by two enormously thick walls of stone, but it is not vitrified.

6. Through flourishing plantations and highly cultivated grounds, we now reach Geusachan, the beautiful residence of Fraser of Culbockie, the representative of a family which suffered much at the rebellion of 1745, and in the flames of their dwelling-house lost many of their most valuable papers.

A mile or so beyond Geusachan the public road stops on the brow of a hill, just as the traveller expects it is to usher him on Glen Affrick—one of the great openings to the west—to which we are immediately to direct attention, after a short traditionary narrative.

The districts of Strathglass and Urquhart, being easily accessible from the extensive tracts of moor ground lying to the west of them, and which were too remote to be under the command even of the ancient chieftains of the country, were formerly much infested by depredators, who occasionally took

possession of these wilds; and by the more distant, but equally unsettled clans who resided on the western coasts of Inverness and Ross shires. An excessive population, which had outgrown its means of subsistence, and totally regardless of the industrious and peaceable occupations of civilized life, was always ready for desperate enterprises; and the chiefs were obliged, if not to encourage, at least to connive at such, to prevent their retainers from quarrelling among themselves. Hence our late venerable and learned friend, Mr. Grant of Corrymony, author of an erudite, but now scarce, work, on the origin and descent of the Gael, used to relate that his father, when speaking about the rebellion of 1745, always insisted that a *rising* in the Highlands was absolutely necessary, to give employment to the numerous bands of lawless and idle young men who infested every property. Besides, he added, Sir Ludovick Grant, our chief, plainly told the gentlemen of his name, resident in the Braes of Urquhart and Glen Moriston, that it was not in his power to protect them from the attacks of the neighbouring clans, such as the Frasers, Macdonells, and Camerons, who were favourable to the cause of Prince Charles Stuart; and that they must just consult their own safety, and take whichever side they considered best. Whether these gentlemen understood the meaning of this sly and shrewd advice we cannot say; but, in the circumstances in which they were placed, we cannot wonder that they joined the cause which, in the Highlands at least, appeared the strongest and most legitimate.

At the period just alluded to, cow's flesh formed almost the exclusive food of both gentry and peasantry, and hence much disease prevailed from the want of vegetables. Corn was scarce, and the reaping of such as arrived at maturity was uncertain, as well from robbery and bad husbandry as inclement seasons. Hence, like the patriarchs of old, the head of every considerable family had occasionally to send forth his sons and servants to the Low Countries to buy corn for food. Old Corrymony had every season to do so; and a goodly band of young fellows would he despatch, with leathern bags on their backs and money in their hands, to purchase meal at the Earl of Moray's granaries, in Petty. Such an expedition, however, was too important to be disregarded by the neighbourhood; and it so happened that the kind old laird seldom sent out his household accoutred with their sacks, but intelligence was some way or other communi-

cated to the famished Camerons of Lochaber, who instantly crossed the hills in great strength, under cloud of night, and waylaid the Grants on their return from the low grounds. Sometimes without, but oftener only after a struggle, the caterans would succeed in relieving the Urquhart men of their treasure, which they instantly carried away to their own hungry families on the banks of Loch Arkaig; where, perhaps, the luxury of meal was not again experienced till the following year, when another successful foray might bring it them.

PASSES FROM STRATHGLASS TO THE WEST COAST.

7. We now proceed to describe the routes from Strathglass through the great passes or openings between the mountains leading to the west coast. They are three in number: 1st, by Glenstrathfarar and Loch Monar; 2d, by Glen Cannich; and 3d, by the Chisholm's Pass and Strath Affrick, through the Beallach to the Crowe of Kintail. The last is the highest and grandest, and, on the whole, the best adapted for a public road, as being the shortest, and communicating most directly with well-inhabited districts; and in fact it was marked out by the Parliamentary Commissioners as one of their first lines of road, though it has not hitherto been carried beyond the top of Strathglass. At present there are but mere tracts or foot-paths through these wilds, without drains or bridges, but sufficiently marked for the pedestrian, though rendered extremely rough by the constant tread of the little country garrons, and the droves of cattle which for ages have been passing along from coast to coast, and whose footsteps have scooped out the earth between the rocks and stones on the surface, which has thus been converted into a sort of broken causeway. The whole of the mountains through which we have to pass, composing the irregular boundary between Inverness and Ross shires, are grouped into enormous chains and clusters, set on a high table-land or base, to which the lesser chains, on the confines of Loch Duich, Strathglass, and Glen Urquhart, appear only as buttresses, and which attain an elevation in some places equal, and in general but little inferior, to Ben Nevis and the Grampians. They contain multitudes of lakes at a very high level, which communicate with one another by rapid streams, the descent from these great central masses of rock to either coast being also for the most part

abrupt and steep. Guides may be hired at the inn at Struy Bridge, or at the little village of Invercannich, to direct one's course, and carry his wallet and provisions, the charge being from 5s. to 7s. a-day.

1. GLENSTRATHFARAR, BRANCHING OFF FROM STRATHGLASS AT STRUY.

8. Of old, the whole district from Inverness to this point was known under the name of Strathfarar; the Firth of Beauly was called by the Romans, latinising most probably the native names, Æstuarius-Varrar, and the valley at present denominated Glenstrathfarar, shows itself, by its designation, to be the narrowest part of the great strath. Glenstrathfarar runs nearly due west along the base of the mountain Benevachart, on the estate of Struy, for a distance of about ten miles, and is confessedly one of the most picturesque valleys in the Highlands. In geological phrase, it is formed of a succession of small circular valleys, opening into one another, and in consequence it presents a variety of landscape, generally bold and rocky, but beautifully wooded, and interspersed with soft, low meadow grounds. At its further end the glen terminates in the basin of Loch Miulie, in which is a small island whither Lord Lovat retreated after the disaster at Culloden, and from the summit of one of the adjacent mountains, encompassed by a few faithful adherents, he beheld the flames of the conflagration which consumed his own and his clansmen's houses.

Three miles beyond is Monar House (Captain White), at the lower end of Loch Monar, and thus far the road is adapted for carriages; but beyond, it is a mere tract, and the traveller should, if possible, make his way to the head of the lake, which is seven miles long, by boat. There he will find a shepherd's cot, at which, as it is twenty-five miles distant from Struy, he should rest for the night. The shores of Loch Monar are wild, but picturesque, and at the eastern end, where the water is hemmed in by a narrow tortuous strait, the remnants of an ancient pine-forest are seen, of which, farther on, stumps and fallen trees only appear, though these are met with in the mosses all the way to Kintail. According to the historical manuscript of a Highland clergyman of the seventeenth century, a great hunt took place here in the year 1655. It is thus described:—

"The law here is strict against loyalists, so that the Earl of Seaforth entered his person prisoner in the Sconce at Inverness, as also the Lord Macdonald, and had their respective lodgings within the citadel. Seaforth procured a furlough this year, putting himself under bail to Governor Miles Man, and went to visit his friends the length of Kintail; and resolving to keep a hunting by the way in the forest of Monar, he prevailed with the Master and Tutor of Lovat to go along with him. The tutor pitched his tent on the north side of the river, and Struy his tent upon the south. Next day we got sight of six or seven hundred deer, and sport of hunting fitter for kings than country gentlemen. The four days we tarried there, what is it that could cheer and renovate men's spirits but was gone about? Jumping, archery, shooting, throwing the bar, the stone, and all manner of manly exercises imaginable. And for entertainment, our baggage was well furnished of beef, mutton, fowls, fishes, fat venison—a very princely camp—and all manner of liquors. The fifth day we convoyed Seaforth over the mountain in sight of Kintail, and returned home with the Master of Lovat—a very pretty train of gallant gentlemen. Masters Hill and Man, two Englishmen who were in company, declared that in all their travels they never had such brave divertisement; and if they should relate it in England, it would be concluded mere rant, and incredible!"

9. Scuir-na-Lapich, a beautifully-peaked mountain belonging to Lord Lovat, lies on the south side of Loch Monar, and between it and Glen Cannich; and to the west of it an enormous shapeless mass, called Ryuchan, flat at top, and seared in front by innumerable streams and gullies, the first and highest mountain on the Lochalsh property, and from the summit of which both seas are visible. The peaks of Crechil come next, and most splendid grassy shoulders descend from them, stretching off and uniting with the rich pastures of the west coast. It will take seven hours' hard walking to reach Attadale, on Loch Carron, from Loch Monar, and that over the most rugged ground, but without any considerable ascents, the path passing at no great distance from Lochs Ged, Cruashi, and Calivie, and from one great pastoral valley to another by gentle undulations, till, after crossing Luip-Y-Guilig, an open hollow, where the hill paths from Monar, Strathconon, Loch Carron, and Loch Long unite, it descends into the rocky and picturesque Strathan of

Attadale, where brushwood, cultivation, and the cottages of the MacRaas, a pure, swarthy, dark-eyed, and tall Celtic race, greet the weary traveller. From Loch Monar the scenery is rather wide and open, but the straths and hill sides are beautifully green, and the forms and tints of many of the mountain groups and single peaks are exceedingly interesting. In Glenstrathfarar, the tourist can refresh himself at several farm-houses, and perhaps he might get quarters for a night at one or other of the shooting-lodges there, but for the last twenty miles there is no bothie at all to be seen.

2. GLEN CANNICH.

10. Glen Cannich, or the Glen of the Cotton Grass, which abounds throughout its pastures, strikes off from Strathglass at the clachan or village of Invercannich, seven and a half miles above Struy, and after a short rocky ascent, it turns westward, and stretches out for twenty miles before the eye, as a broad mossy valley, abounding in most valuable pasture, but covered to a great extent by a succession of uninteresting lakes or tarns, of which Loch Longard (called in maps Loch Moyley, and which is six or seven miles in length) is the most considerable. At the farther end of this lake, which is about half way across, is a shepherd's cottage, where the traveller will be made welcome, but no other is to be seen till he reaches Killellan, on Loch Long, about fifteen miles distant. Glen Cannich is of a lower level than Strath Affrick, to which it is nearly parallel, except that it trends more to the north, and it is higher than Glenstrathfarar. Its west end is called Glasletter, significant of its rich green pastures, and here the estates of the Chisholm and Lochalsh meet. From the edges of the plain the mountain acclivities rise up on all sides in long unbroken and beautiful slopes, clothed with the richest herbage, and thousands of choice Cheviot sheep are reared upon them. A good road could easily be made along this glen; but the overflowings of the lochs in winter would have to be guarded against, whilst higher up it would be much exposed to deep snow wreaths, and the rough shores of Loch Long, at the west end, could only be surmounted at a great expense. Instead of going so far as Killellan, we would advise the traveller, soon after passing Loch Edrum, where the waters first *shear* towards the west coast, to ford the Elcaig

river, and, ascending to the south-west, visit the Falls of Glomak, and thence proceed, as after described, to Shielhouse by the Crowe of Kintail.

3. THE CHISHOLM'S PASS, AND STRATH AFFRICK.

11. Between the bridges of Invercannich and Fasnakyle, the tourist will find an excellent road striking off to the right, which was made for the conveyance of wool from the Chisholm's sheep farms in the interior, and which terminates at the nearer end of Loch Benneveian, four or five miles distant. It ascends rapidly, and then becomes level, and it commands fine views of the strath it has left, and of the river above whose course it conducts, on which are a series of beautiful cascades, from ten to thirty feet high, occurring in the course of a rapid upwards of a mile long. The opening through which this road leads is called THE CHISHOLM'S PASS. The scenery is somewhat similar to the celebrated birken bowers of Killiecrankie and the Trosachs, but on a much ampler and grander scale; and to the beauty of the birch, and of many large native ashes and elms, the intermixture of tall, fantastic pines, here superadds the sober and imposing majesty of the Rothiemurchus and Mar forests. In ascending the shelving opening, a prolonged vista in one general mantle of foliage ascending high on either side, forms a woodland picture of incomparable beauty, threaded by the rocky channel of the river. The path is prolonged westward from the termination of the *good* road through the Chisholm's Pass, and is daily becoming more passable for horses as well as foot passengers.

12. After resting at the shepherd's cot at Achagait, on a fine green haugh at the exit of the Glass from its parent lake, the tourist must proceed by land, if not so fortunate as to find the Loch Benneveian boat at the east end. This sheet of water is five miles long, and about a mile broad in the centre, and wider at the lower than the upper end. The surrounding mountains are high, bold, and massive—quite bare on the north side, but the sloping declivities on the south are closely and extensively covered with pine forest, of which a fine circular screen also encloses the head of the lake. Beyond it the gigantic mountain masses of Loch Affrick rise in most graceful majesty, and present long, slightly-curving summits and lines

subsiding very gently in the distance, the broad and remote peaks of Kintail filling up the centre, the whole composing an exquisite landscape of severe but most engaging grandeur. The character of the scene is realized in Thomson's "Castle of Indolence."

> "Full in the passage of the Vale, above,
> A sable, silent, solemn forest stood;
> Where nought but shadowy forms were seen to move,
> As Idless fancied in her dreaming mood:
> And up the hills, on either side, a wood
> Of blackening pines, aye waving to and fro,
> Sent forth a sleepy horror through the blood;
> And where the valley winded out, below,
> The murmuring stream was heard, and scarcely heard, to flow."

13. A narrow rocky barrier, covered with pine and birch separates Loch Benneveian from Loch Affrick; and launched again upon the latter, the tourist will perceive every feature as he advances more gigantic and imposing than those he has already explored. The hoary pine forests still continue, but in more broken masses; but with groups and single trees now only crowning a zone of low eminences, which line both shores. Loch Affrick terminates below in a lengthened stripe, widening for a space in the centre, partially bordered with meadow ground, and overhung by birch and pine trees, and thus affording the most admirable foregrounds, comprising a most romantic shooting-lodge of the Chisholm's; while the distant vista retains the same finely outlined character. As we advance, the mountains, which previously appeared in depressed perspective, increasing in size, press close at hand, especially on the north, in all their lofty majesty; and the pine-clad shores bestow an indescribable sense of lonely and sombre solitude on the scenery. This lake is also about five miles long, and a mile across where widest. The foot-path on the northern shore glides along the beetling crags of Scour-na-Lapich and Mam Soul, and at length ushers us on a fine meadow plain at the farther end of the loch, where the shepherd's house at Culivie, neatly fitted up, will be heartily welcomed by the traveller as his night's quarters.

The water of Affrick separates this house from Annamulloch (a ford, where a set of reivers from Mull are said by tradition to have been drowned) from another shepherd's cottage, which is similarly fitted up, either for sportsmen or travellers,—that is, having the "*ben*" room boxed round, with snug boarded-up beds in the side, which are farther provided with the luxu-

ries of English blankets and sheets ; and the occupants, to their other civilities, will obligingly assist in procuring the use of the boats on the lochs, especially if a message is sent beforehand that they are wanted.

14. Should the tourist have time, we would recommend his ascending Mam Soul before proceeding farther, if the weather is fine, as the view is remarkably grand, both seas being visible from the summit ; and, if a botanist, he will find on the upper shoulders a most interesting intermixture of east and west coast plants ;—while in some of the greater corries he is almost sure of being gratified with a sight of a herd of red deer. The nearest approach in Britain to perpetual glaciers, likewise occurs in the snow and icy patches on this mountain ; but the story is quite fabulous, that a green little lake on the northern shoulder is frozen the whole year over.

15. An eight or nine hours' walk from Culivie, or Annamulloch, will land our pilgrim at Shielhouse, in Kintail—the foot-path being quite distinct the whole way, keeping on the north side of the Affrick Water, along an open level valley, at the further end of which a sudden cleft in the terminating range of rocky hills, called the Beallach (literally *the Pass*), lets us " drop down," with cautious footsteps, to the Crowe of Kintail. A single bothie at Aultbae, at which a bowl of milk may be had, is to be met with in the hill, about four miles west from Loch Affrick, where an opening in the mountains leading southwards conducts to Cluany, in Glen Moriston. At the head of Strath Affrick, a glen, or hollow, running at nearly right angles to the north, and containing three small lochs, brings us, at about four miles' distance, to the Falls of Glomak, on the river of that name, from which a different route from that by the Beallach conducts to Shielhouse. For a description of those remarkable falls, the highest in the Highlands, and the approaches to them, and of the scenery generally in this day's route, we refer our readers to Route I., Branch F., page 198.

Throughout this last day's walk, the whole country has been treeless ; but the green pastures redeem the loss by their brilliant lively hue, very different from the brown sombre colour of the east-coast moors. A few alders and birches reappear in Kintail, as we attain the level of Loch Duich, but they seem dwindled down to mere twigs ; and an impression of

solemn admiration and awe steals over the mind, as the stupendous peaks and frontlets of Kintail first burst on the view.

ROUTE FIFTH.—BRANCH B.

(THE BLACK ISLE.)

INVERNESS, BY KESSOCK FERRY, TO DINGWALL, REDCASTLE, AVOCH, FORTROSE, AND CROMARTY.

Kessock Ferry, paragraph 1.—Roads; Allangrange; Kilcoy; Ferintosh; footnote, History of Redcastle, 2.—Ord of Kessock; Drumderfit; Origin of the Logans; Munlochy; Rosehaugh; Avoch, 3.—Fortrose; Cathedral of Ross; Rosemarkie, 4. General Sketch of the Black Isle, or Ardmeanach, footnote; Cromarty; Trade, 5. Traditions of Cromarty, 6.—Conveyances; Sculptured Stones at Nigg, &c; Geology, 7.—Old Churches; Urquharts of Cromarty, 8.

	Miles.
Dingwall by Kessock Ferry	13
Strathpeffer Spa Hotel	4
By Beauly, 25 Miles.	
	17

	Miles.
Redcastle from Kessock	5
Muir of Ord, where junction with Great North Post Road	3
	8

		Miles.	Miles.
Kessock to	Munlochy	5	
,,	Avoch	4	9
,,	Fortrose	2	11
,,	Cromarty	9	20
		20	
,,	Invergordon Ferry, 15 Miles.		

1. The road along the west bank of the river Ness conducts us towards its estuary, through the lands of Merkinch, to Kessock (Kesswick) Ferry, the narrowest part of the Moray Firth, and the main passage to the Black Isle, Dingwall, and the west of Ross-shire. This strait is about three-quarters of a mile broad, and is now one of the safest ferries in the north. The current of the river Beauly, which flows down next the northern shore, and the reflux of the ebb of the sea meeting the flow, create, at certain periods, an agitation of the waters

which is more dangerous in appearance than in reality. It is thus pompously described by Franck, an officer of Cromwell's army, who wrote memoirs on his sojourn in Scotland—who, besides the dangers of the waves, says that his boat was nearly upset by the porpoises, "which *vented* so vehemently at the stern:"—"In the midst of this Pontus *Cambrosia* is a white spumation, or frothy, foaming, sparkling spray, that resembles *via lactea;* occasioned, as you see, from luxuriant tides and aggravating winds, that violently contract the surface of the sea, and so amalgamises them together, that neither the one nor the other can divide nor expatiate itself till inevitably sucked into the bowels of the ocean." Of the many beautiful points of view around Inverness, that, from the midst of Kessock ferry, of the Beauly and Moray Firths, and of the heights which line the great glen, of the town itself, and river's mouth, and the surrounding fields and hanging woods, especially at full tide, is one of the most interesting and extensive.

2. The peninsula lying between the firths of Beauly and Cromarty, called the "Black Isle," or "Edderdail" (the land between the two seas), or "Ardmeanach" (the monk's height), consists chiefly of three great ridges parallel to one another, and running nearly from south-west to north-east, of which the loftiest and farthest back, called the "Maolbuy" (or yellow hill), rises to the height of between 600 and 700 feet, and which, though now enclosed and extensively planted, was, till of late years, a bleak undivided commonty. To the tourist this peninsula is useful, as affording him short routes either to the West or North Highlands, and as presenting, in all directions, from its high, undulating surfaces, most grand and extensive views, whether he looks southward, across the Moray and Beauly Firths, upon Inverness, and towards the recesses of the Great Glen and Strathglass, or, on attaining the summit of the highest ridge, he beholds all at once beneath him the expanse of the Cromarty Firth, embosomed in fine cultivated grounds, with high and wild mountains of every shape and size extending in grand groups and chains behind them.

From the inn of North Kessock, on the Ross-shire side of the ferry, where carriages, gigs, and saddle-horses can be had, two roads proceed, one by the sea-side westwards by Redcastle*

* The fine old tower of Redcastle, which is still inhabited by the proprietor, Colonel H. D. Baillie, was anciently the head castle of the lordship of Ardmeanach,

(five miles), which joins the great post road at the Muir of Ord (three miles on, and two miles from Beauly), and is continued across it to Moy and Contin (five miles more), on the Loch Carron road from Dingwall. The other road from Kessock holds over the hill, in a north-west direction, for Dingwall, and at the first toll-bar (two miles on) a branch of it strikes off for Munlochy, Avoch, Fortrose, Rosemarkie, and Cromarty. Another branch from the Dingwall road breaks off three miles farther on, at the Tore Inn or public-house, and which also conducts to Avoch and Fortrose, without passing through Munlochy; and an arm of it strikes west from nearly the same point of junction for Redcastle and Beauly. Near the top of the ridge of the Maolbuy, a very tedious but straight road proceeds due east to Cromarty, intersected by cross ones from Munlochy and Rosemarkie leading to Invergordon ferry. At Arpaphily (three miles from Kessock) we pass a small Episcopal chapel, and opposite it, in the hollow on the right, the house of Allangrange, and the site of an old chapel of the Knights Templars. Farther on is the Castle of Kilcoy (Sir Evan Mackenzie), on the height above Redcastle, and behind it one of the largest cairns—enclosed with circles of upright stones—in the north of Scotland. These lie about half a mile north-west of the tower. Descending thence towards the head of the Cromarty Firth, the traveller will behold one of the most magnificent panoramic views in the country, as he passes through the barony of Ferintosh, a district long celebrated for its superior whisky. The privilege of dis-

and also a royal castle. "On the forfeiture of the old Earls of Ross, it was annexed inalienably by parliament to the Scottish Crown in 1455; and in 1482, the Earl of Huntlie, the king's lieutenant in the north, bestowed the keeping of Redcastle on Hugh Rose, Baron of Kilravock. It was seized soon thereafter by Hector Mackenzie, and the country of Ardmeanach spuilzied by William Forbes in Strathglaish, Chisholm of Comer, and other accomplices, against whom Rose of Kilravock obtains sentence, 12th May 1492. Thus armed, the Earl of Huntlie farther gave commission to Mackintosh, Grant, Kilravock, and others, to the number of 3000, to go against Cainoch M'Cainoch and his kin (the occupiers of Glen Cainoch) for spuilzing Ardmeanach, and killing Harold Chisholm in Strathglaish, and that they did harrie, spuilzie, and slay the clan Kynech by his command, as the king's rebels and oppressors of the liedges" (Kilravock MSS.) Tradition says, that when Queen Mary was at Inverness, on which occasion it is also believed her majesty bestowed the name of *Beaulieu* or Beauly on the priory there, she visited Redcastle. It was afterwards burnt in Montrose's time; and the family of Mackenzie of Redcastle (the first of the house being *Rory More*, second son of Kenneth, fifth Laird of Kintail, and who acquired the estate about the year 1570) having become unfortunate, the property was sold in 1790 by authority of the Court of Session, and purchased for £25,000 by Mr. Grant of Sheuglie, the gross rental being about £1000 a-year. In 1824, the same estate was bought by the late Sir William Fettes for £135,000, but has since been resold to the present proprietor for a sum considerably less. On the estate of Redcastle, the tourist will pass the ruins of the old chapel of Gilchrist (or Christ's church), the burning of which is described in the horrid "Raid of Cillie-christ," (page 149.)

tilling spirits in this barony, not subject to the excise laws, was granted to President Forbes of Culloden (the proprietor), a poor recompense for his extraordinary exertions in behalf of the Hanoverian government; and it was bought back by the Crown, in 1786, for a sum of about £20,000. The tower of Ryefield, on the right, is the messuage of this estate, which belongs to the county of Nairn; and on the left will be observed another small tower or fortalice—that of Kinkell, on the estate of Conon, the old residence, on the eastern side of the island, of the Gairloch family, an ancient and powerful branch of the clan Mackenzie, now represented by a promising youth, Sir Kenneth Mackenzie, whose estate in this quarter is also valuable and beautiful. At Scudal Bridge (two miles from Dingwall) we join the main post road. (See page 388.)

3. Let us now revert to the roads proceeding from Kessock to the eastern parts of the Black Isle. The high, round-caped hill, immediately to the east of Kessock, is called the Ord, or Wardhill of Kessock, and is crowned with a strong walled structure, extensively vitrified. One of its acclivities on the right hand, as we descend towards Munlochy by a side or district road, is called the ridge of Drumderfit or Druim deur, "the ridge of tears," which, as the many cairns strewed over it would indicate, was about the year 1400 the scene of a strange and sanguinary event. Donald, the then Lord of the Isles, having collected a powerful army, made a descent upon Ross, and encamped on this ridge, opposite the town of Inverness, which he threatened with fire and sword, if not propitiated by an exorbitant ransom. Happily for the town, the provost, whose name was Junor, was a man of penetration and address. Aware that Donald's army was greatly fatigued, and in want of provisions, Provost Junor contrived to smuggle into the camp a large quantity of strong spirits, which were eagerly consumed by the islesmen, who soon sunk, under the power of the intoxicating beverage, into the most profound slumber. In the mean time, the provost collected a number of resolute adherents, and crossing Kessock ferry at dead of night, suddenly fell on Donald's camp and massacred almost every man. The farm of Drumderfit was, till very lately, occupied for upwards of 400 years by a respectable family of the name of Logan, from the Lothians, who were extensive merchants or traffickers, and who, tradition says, received by marriage into their house the last *heiress* of the old

Bissets of Lovat, an alliance for which they paid dearly, through the inroads and jealousies of the clan Fraser, who succeeded the Bissets in the Lovat estates. The Logans also suffered from their attachment to Episcopacy; but they afterwards retrieved their losses, by becoming commissioners for Forbes of Culloden, for the sale of the licensed Ferintosh whisky. Munlochy is a little post town, situated at the head of a small but picturesque inlet of the Moray Firth, from which a road continues nearly due north, across the elevated and far-extending moorland, to Invergordon Ferry on the Cromarty Firth, and another branching from it leads straight forward along the ridge of the hill to Cromarty. That by the coast introduces us, four miles on, to the little fishing village of Avoch, passing previously the mansion-houses and grounds of Rosehaugh (Sir James Mackenzie of Scatwell, Bart.), and of Avoch (Alexander G. Mackenzie, Esq.), and, one mile further, to the ancient burgh of Fortrose.*

4. As a free town, and as the seat of the bishops of Ross (whose palace or castle was completely, and their cathedral in a great measure, destroyed by Oliver Cromwell), Fortrose was in ancient days a place of considerable consequence; the records of its chanonry or canon courts contained transcripts of almost all the valuable documents relating to the family histories and estates in the county of Ross, and it gave birth to men eminent both in church and state. Here resided the celebrated historian, Bishop Lesley, the last Catholic bishop of Ross, who lost his see for his zealous support of Queen Mary. Dr. Gregory Mackenzie, the laborious compiler of the lives of the most eminent writers of the Scottish nation, also dwelt here, in an old castle belonging to the Earl of Seaforth, and lies interred in the tomb of that family within the cathedral;

* Between Avoch and Fortrose a broad green sward formerly extended along the sea-beach, and was continued to the Ness of Chanonry, on which the burghers used to play at bowls and golf, and along which the great Sir George Mackenzie, Lord Advocate to Charles II., and author of some of our best Scottish statutes, used to ride with a large escort when on his way to court or Parliament. It abounded with the little white Burnet rose (*rosa spinosissima*), and hence the name of the estate, "Vallis Rosarum," or "Rosehaugh." On a rocky mound now called "Ormond," or the "Lady Hill," at the west end of these green links, stood the ancient Castle of Avoch, to which, as related by Wyntoun, the Regent, Sir Andrew de Moravia, "a lord of great bounty, of sober and chaste life, wise and upright in council, liberal and generous, devout and charitable, stout, hardy, and of great courage," retired from the fatigues of war, and ended his days about the year 1338, and was buried in the "Cathedral Kirk of Rosmarkyn." Passing afterwards into the possession of the Earls of Ross, this castle was, on their forfeiture in 1476, annexed to the crown, when James III. created his second son, *Duke of Ross, Marquis of Ormond, and Earl of Edirdal, otherwise called Ardmanache*, and hence this district, which still bears these names, thus became one of the regular appanages of the royal family of Scotland.

and a physician of the same name, noted in his day for a work entitled "The Art of preserving Health," is said to have been in his youth a teacher of the grammar school in this burgh. The famous Scottish statesman and lawyer, Sir George Mackenzie, often retired from courts and senates to enjoy the delightful and secluded walks about Fortrose; and the late Sir James Mackintosh, the well-known historian, senator, and author of the "Vindiciæ Gallicæ," received the rudiments of his education in this place. With the adjoining older burgh of Rosemarkie, which dates its first privileges from Alexander II., and with which the old chanonry of Ross was united by a charter from King James II. (anno 1444), under the common name of Fortross, softened into Fortrose, it now shares the honour of possessing a numerous tribe of knights of the awl and shuttle; but, although provided by government with an elegant and commodious harbour, and by the neighbouring gentry with an academy for the education of youth, and an Episcopal chapel, Fortrose boasts of little or no trade, and no rapidly increasing population. The situation of the town is romantic and sunny, and the grounds about it, which have long been under cultivation, are rich and in high order; and when the cathedral green was surrounded by large old trees, before Cromwell's axe was laid to their roots, and the houses of the town were removed to a distance from the cathedral—save that the canons and presbyters of the see had each, near it, his manse, with gardens and court-yards, entered by gothic arched gateways—the whole place must have had a very beautiful and imposing appearance, more like an English ecclesiastical town than a Scotch one. After the Restoration in 1660, the bishops, from poverty, feued out small portions round the edges of the green for building, and thus the sacred enclosures, which were formerly reserved as a site for certain annual fairs, and as a burying-ground, has been encroached upon. Mr. Neale, in his "Ecclesiological Notes" of 1848, thus describes what remains of the cathedral—though his ground plan which accompanies it was too hurriedly got up; and we doubt much his accuracy in separating the south chapel into distinct nave and chancel:—"On one side of this green are the remains of the once glorious cathedral, the see of the bishops of Ross. It was not destroyed in the Knoxian Reformation, but by Oliver Cromwell, who applied the stones to the construction of a fort at Inverness.

The fort has perished ; the cathedral, in the last stage of decay, still exists. It formerly consisted of choir and nave, with aisles to each, eastern lady chapel, western tower, and chapter-house at the north-east end ; what remains consists merely of the south aisle to chancel and nave, and the detached chapter-house. The style is the purest and most elaborate middle-pointed ; the material, red sandstone, gave depth and freedom to the chisel ; and the whole church, though probably not 120 feet long from east to west, must have been an architectural gem of the very first description. The exquisite beauty of the mouldings, after so many years of exposure to the air, is wonderful, and shows that, in whatever other respect these remote parts of Scotland were barbarous, in ecclesiology, at least, they were on a par with any other branch of the mediæval Church. The east window, fragments of the tracery of which hang from the archivolt, must have been magnificent, and consisted of five lights ; it is wide in proportion to its height, and must have afforded great scope for throwing up the altar beneath. On the outside, in the gable, there are two lancets, the lower one much longer than the other ; the whole effect is extremely satisfactory ; I know not, indeed, where one could look for a better model for a small collegiate church, and such as might suit the needs of our communion at this moment. There are two windows on the south side, of the same elaborate and beautiful description, but consisting of four lights. The piscina remains, and the mouldings are truly the work of a master. The south aisle was separated from the chancel by two middle pointed arches, now walled up, but not so much injured as to destroy their extreme loveliness. In the first of these arches is a canopied tomb for the foundress, a Countess of Ross, the date of which is probably 1330. Very possibly her lord might be interred in a similar position in the north side of the choir. This must have been one of the most beautiful monuments I ever saw. Between the foot and the easternmost pier, a credence is inserted, sloping up with a stone lean-to against the passage wall. In the second arch is a poor third-pointed high tomb and canopy, with the effigy of a bishop, by tradition, the second bishop of the see ; a thing manifestly impossible, unless the monument were erected long after the decease of the person commemorated. The chancel-arch is modern. The nave consists of four bays, and much resembles

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the chancel in its details: the fourth is, however, blocked off for the burying place of some family (the Mackenzies of Seaforth). In the second arch is another third-pointed monument. On the south side the first window is injured; the second resembles those in the chancel arch; the third is high up and mutilated; the fourth is a plain lancet. The west front is remarkably simple, and contains nothing but a small two-light middle-pointed window, without foliation. The rood turret still exists, and is a very elegant, though somewhat singular composition. It stands at the junction of the south aisle of nave and chancel, and acts as a buttress. Square at the base, it is bevelled into a semi-hexagonal* superstructure, and has elegant two-light windows on alternate sides. The top is modern. The chapter-house, as at Glasgow, consisted of two stages, a crypt and the chapter-house properly speaking. The crypt still remains, and is used as a coal-hole; the upper part, which has been rebuilt, is now a school and court-room. The remarkable disorientation of the chancel to the south is worthy of notice; it gives, at first sight, the effect of a gigantic apse to the whole north side of the ruins. There is a Scotch chapel in Fortrose, a horrible conglomeration of pinnacles, without chancel—without any one good point; it seems quite new."

We trust her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests will now save the remains of the cathedral from farther decay, and protect the green from encroachments, by enclosing it as a place of healthy recreation for the inhabitants.

A new parish church has lately been erected by subscription, and a stipend for a minister appropriated out of a fund left by a worthy bailie of Fortrose in the end of the seventeenth century, intended for the benefit of the Episcopal communion. This building, and a *Free* Church near it, both make pretensions to *modern* Gothic, but they are spiritless and devoid of symmetrical proportions. The Gaelic language is but little known in this or the adjoining parish of Avoch, but the English spoken dialect is peculiar, and abounds in obsolete words and phrases, many of which, especially among the fishermen at Avoch, are Danish. So late as 1686, the bishop and his chapter made over the grass of the cathedral green, and the feu and manse maills and duties, to the schoolmaster of the parish, on account of the "troubles," and seeing that Episco-

* Octagonal. It forms a cross or short transept to the chapel.

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pacy was then again likely to be overturned. The first Presbyterian pastor was established here about the year 1710. Fortrose can boast of a most comfortable inn, and private lodgings are easily had, both here and at Rosemarkie, which are delightful sea-bathing quarters. The manse and church of Rosemarkie (on the site of the tomb of St. Boniface, the patron saint of this parish, and who is believed to have taken up his residence here on a mission from the Pope in the seventh century), a little to the east, are beautifully situated. In digging the foundations of the present church, a large stone coffin was come upon, and a cross, which is beautifully carved with foliage and knotwork on both sides, but without any inscription, and was likely the patron saint's cross. It was coolly appropriated as a grave-stone, and broken in two. The projecting sandy point of Chanonry, running out into the firth, between Fortrose and Rosemarkie, is terminated by a fine and useful lighthouse, and by the ferry-house, where we take boat for Fort-George and the Inverness-shire coast.

From Fortrose, the public road to Cromarty sweeps across to the opposite firth, and a shorter branch by Eathie, but at present in bad order, bends inland across the intervening hills, whilst beyond Raddery there is a further choice of the road from Munlochy to Cromarty. A footpath along the cliffs overhanging the sea is generally preferred by the pedestrian, and to the geologist we would particularly recommend it, that he may visit the small but very curious lias deposit near Eathie, and the sandstone beds with the Ichthyolite concretions, in the description of which Mr. Hugh Miller laid the foundations of his fame. We may also remind our scientific friends, that along the sea-beach eastward from Rosemarkie, they can form a good collection of specimens of hornblende-rock, chlorite and actynolite schist, quartz-rock, and granite and gneiss charged with garnets; and by the botanist, these rocks will be found extremely prolific in herbaceous plants, ferns, and mosses.

5. Cromarty is celebrated all the world over for the safety of its bay (the *Portus Salutus* of the ancients), the convenience and neatness of its harbour, the boldness of its bluff promontories (called the Sutors)—the opposing disjoined members of the coast line—and which protect it from the blasts of the north-east, south, and west, and for the exceeding beauty and fertility of its neighbourhood. At morning's glow it hails the

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sun, rising, between the Sutors, from the bed of the German Ocean, and at even it beholds his level rays gilding the massive shoulders of Ben Wyvis, and burnishing the broad retiring waters of its own inland firth. Cromarty is often a stirring place, and a refuge in storms to all vessels which may be out on the adjoining seas. It has a fine pier and lighthouse, and a beautiful esplanade, and has a good beach for sea-bathers. It contains also a manufactory for bagging, one or two timber yards, several cooperages, a brewery, two banks, and a depot for pickled salmon and for the other produce of the country, which is collected here previous to being carried away to the southern markets by the Inverness trading vessels and steamers. A considerable trade in pork has for fifty years been carried on at Cromarty: the annual value now cured may be from £5000 to £10,000. The import and export trade of Ross-shire formerly passed through this town; but the erection of a harbour at the more convenient and central port of Invergordon has, of late, diverted it very much; and the many ruinous and tottering buildings in Cromarty indicate, that unless a new spur to its commerce is found out, its glory will speedily depart. The estate on which it is situated has been, till very recently, under trust, and the subject of litigation, which also of course mar the prosperity of the whole neighbourhood. It now belongs to the family of Mrs. Rose Ross. As at Rosemarkie, Fortrose, and Dingwall, the ancient cross of Cromarty is still standing, though it is perhaps questionable whether the worthy burghers should be allowed to retain any such mark of distinction, their ancestors having, through their simplicity, and little estimation of those political honours for the acquisition of which people now-a-days manifest such inordinate zeal, resigned to his Majesty King Charles II. their privilege of presenting a delegate to parliament. Cromartyshire is now united with Ross.

6. Macbeth was Thane of Cromarty or Crombathi,* and Cromarty House stands on the site of the old castle of the Earls of Ross. The seaward quarters of the town are inhabited by a colony of fishermen, who go ten or twelve miles out to sea to the haddock and herring banks, where they find their perilous livelihood. A friend and fellow townsman of their own, Mr. Hugh Miller, their most interesting and graphic historian, a few years ago, among his other writings, published an account

* The curved or crooked bay.

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of these hardy fishermen; from which we extract the following notices of the former history of the town of Cromarty:—

"James the Sixth attempted to civilize the Highlands and Isles, by colonising them with people brought from the southern counties of the kingdom; and his first experiment, says Robertson, was made in the Isle of Lewis, where, as the station was conveniently situated for prosecuting the fishing trade, he settled a colony brought from the shores of Fife. The historian adds further, that the project miscarried in this instance, through the jealousy of the islanders, who were alike unwilling to forsake their old habits, or to acquire new; and that it was altogether abandoned on the accession of James to the throne of England. That Cromarty was originally peopled by some such colony, appears at the least probable, from the following circumstances. The surnames of the oldest families in it are peculiar to the southern counties of Scotland; and the Gaelic language, though that of the adjacent country, was scarcely known in it prior to the erection of its hemp manufactory.

"At the close of the seventeenth century, and early in the eighteenth, the herring fishery of Cromarty was very successful; and the era of the Union is still spoken of as the time of the 'herring drove.'

"During the era of the 'herring drove,' Cromarty was a place of considerable commercial importance. I have heard from old men, that at the beginning of the last century, not less than five three-masted vessels belonged to it, besides others of lesser size. Like many of the trading towns of Scotland, it suffered from the Union, and the failure of the herring fishing completed its ruin. It fell so low before the year 1730, that a single shopkeeper, who was not such literally, for in the summer season he travelled the country as a pedlar, more than supplied the inhabitants. It is a singular fact, that the tide now flows twice every twenty-four hours over the spot once occupied by his shop.

"Those acquainted with the natural history of the herring, know that it is not uncommon for it to desert on the sudden its accustomed haunts.

"Cromarty, as I have stated, after the failure of its herring fishery, dwindled into a place of no importance; and its excellent harbour, which, as an old black-letter folio states, was so early as the sixteenth century 'callit by Scottish folks the haill

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(health) of seamen,' proved of value only to a few half-employed fishermen, or to the voyager driven from his course by tempest. This change materially affected the character of the inhabitants.

"Unsuccessful exertion is naturally succeeded by inert apathy, a mood the most unfavourable both to learning and the arts. During the era of the 'herring drove,' strange as it may seem, there were fishermen in Cromarty who were no contemptible scholars. There is a tradition that one of the Urquharts (extensive proprietors in the neighbourhood) of that time, when sauntering along the shore, accompanied by two guests, gentlemen from England, asked a fisherman he met several questions in Latin, and to the surprise of the visitors received prompt answers in the same language. In the age which succeeded, education among this class was entirely neglected. Nothing can give a stronger conception of their nerveless apathy than the fact that children of the men who, their rank in life considered, were both learned and intelligent, scarcely knew that the world extended more than a thousand miles round the place of their nativity. Though inhabitants of a sea-port town, they believed that at the distance of a few weeks' sailing the ocean was bounded by the horizon, and that all beyond was darkness: but though thus ignorant, not Virgil himself was better acquainted with the signs of the weather, or could tell more truly when storms or calms might be expected.

"The domestic economy of the people at this age is deserving of notice. Their clothing they manufactured themselves. Every half-dozen neighbours had a boat, and every family a strip of land. The latter supplied them with bread, and by the former they supplied themselves with fish. At midsummer, when cod, ling, mackerel, &c., are to be caught near the shore, it was customary for them to sail to Tarbet Ness, an excellent fishing station, twenty miles north of Cromarty, and stay there for several weeks, laying up store for winter. The day was occupied in fishing; at night they moored their boats and converted the sails into tents. In autumn the more enterprising among them formed parties, and scoured the firth in quest of herrings. During the time of the 'drove,' a premium of twenty pounds Scots was awarded every season to the boat's crew that caught the first barrel of fish. This premium (I have not learned from what quarter it came) was afterwards much more the object of the fishermen than the herrings themselves; but

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it was not every season they caught enough to entitle them to it. The grandfather of the writer, a man who witnessed the smoke of Culloden from the hill of Cromarty, and who, in his eighty-fifth year, possessed all his faculties, bodily and mental, frequently made one in these parties. I have often, when a child, stood by his knee, listening with an intense interest to his minute characteristic details of men and times, which were unknown almost to every other person living. From his narratives, and the knowledge I have acquired of the character of the present age, I find data to conclude, that in the last ninety years, there has been a change in the manners and habits of the inhabitants of this part of the country, greater beyond comparison than any other that has taken place among them since the era of the Reformation. The men of the present age in the north of Scotland are much more unlike their predecessors of the reign of Queen Anne and George the First, than the latter were to the people who lived there three hundred years before. To give a detail of the signs of this change, to examine into the various causes which effected it, and to consider and balance its advantages and disadvantages, physical and moral, would be a work of interest, and, as the subject now presents to me, one not of great difficulty."

The writer from whom this extract is taken is now well known to the public as a poet, a man of science, and a reviewer; and Mr. Miller's work on the "Old Red Sandstone," and his "Foot-prints of the Creator, or the Ostrolepis of Stromness," will long be popular proofs that we may find "sermons in stones, and good in everything."

7. In summer a two-horse coach runs daily to and from Inverness and Dingwall by Kessock, or by Beauly, and proceeds up Strathpeffer, for and with passengers visiting the mineral wells. Another coach used, in favourable and busy seasons, to proceed from Kessock by Avoch and Fortrose to Cromarty, but for the present it has been discontinued.* The London, Leith, and Inverness steamers regularly call at Invergordon and Cromarty, landing passengers and goods by the way at Fortrose and Fort-George; and a small steamer has lately been introduced solely for the Moray Firth and Sutherlandshire coasting trade.

A packet-boat in summer sails daily between Nairn and

* The post gig, carrying three passengers, now supersedes it.

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Cromarty (fare for a single passenger being 2s., or about 15s. for the boat), and another twice a-week between Fortrose and Inverness.*

8. Three miles westward of Cromarty, by a good road, the tourist will reach a pier and ferry, where a boat may be had for Invergordon, and into which carriages and horses can be safely taken. We pass on the way Pointzfield (Sir G. G. Munro), Braerlangwell (General Sir Hugh Fraser), and New Hall (Shaw

Sculptured Stone at Sandwick.

Esq.), and the interesting remains of the old church of Kirkmichael, so picturesquely described by Mr. Miller. A district road proceeds westwards past the modern kirk and manse of Resolis, which joins the main post road from Inverness to Thurso, near Scudel bridge, one branch of it, already mentioned, striking

* The antiquary should not omit, while at Cromarty, crossing to Nigg, and seeing the beautiful sculptured stone cross in the churchyard there, and the similar ones at Hilton and Sandwick, five or six miles to the eastward. They resemble the great carved pillar at Forres; but are in some respects more interesting and beautiful, the figures on them being more distinctly Christian. The geologist, also, will find the ichthyolite beds, so fully illustrated by Mr. Miller, at low water, in the bay between the town and the Sutor of Cromarty; the lias and fish beds at Æthie, beyond the Sutor, on the margin of the Moray Firth; and the nearest cliff to the ferry-house on the Nigg shore, exhibits the line of junction of the primary with the red sandstone and fish beds, which enabled Mr. Miller to determine the true position of the latter, and which he regards as displaying an epitome of the geology of the whole north of Scotland, and especially of Caithness-shire.

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across the hill southwards, past Belmaduthy, the beautiful residence of Sir Evan Mackenzie of Kilcoy, to Munlochy, and the other proceeding by Findon and the shore side to Alcaig Ferry, at the mouth of the river Conon. This road is interesting, as it commands most extensive and beautiful views of Easter Ross and Ferindonald, and at its western extremity, looks right into the long vista of Strathpeffer, having the town of Dingwall most suitably placed at its entrance, and in the centre of the picture. Beneath the road, likewise, we see the ruins of the ancient church and grave-yard of Cullicudden—the old Bishop's palace of Castle Craig—and the site of a church dedicated to St. Martin of Tours. The whole district, in fact, was a very early seat of the church (probably from the seventh century), and when her earthly power fell, it was taken up by the wild iron-fisted barons—the Urquharts of Cromarty—the gable of one of whose mansions at Kinbeachy, with the date on it of the middle of the sixteenth century, is still standing; and hard by, a cottage contains one of their monumental tablets, showing, from its astrological dates and signs, their learning, and probable connection with the superstitions of diabolrie, or, as the people called it, the "black art."

ROUTE SIXTH.—BRANCH C.

DINGWALL TO THE WESTERN COAST OF ROSS-SHIRE.

Strathpeffer; Knockfarrel; Mineral Well, 1.—Castle Leod; Auchterneed; Enlistment; Raven Rock, 2.—Ben Wyvis; Rare Plants; White Hare, 3.—Battle of Blarna-Parc; The Turning Stone, 4.—Contin; Coul, 5.—Excursion to the Falls of the Conon and Scuirvullin; Tor and Loch Echiltie; Comrie; Scatwell; Loch Luichart; Scuir Marxy, 6.—Strathconon; The Black Rocks, 7.—Scuirvullin, 8.—Short Route to the West Coast, 9.—Strath and Loch Garve; Falls of Rogie; Sheep Farming, 10.—Loch Luichart; Strath Bran; Loch Carron, 11.—Road to Ullapool, Strath Dirie, and Dirie More; Loch Fannich; Strath and Loch Broom; Croft System; Fisheries, 12.—Ullapool, 13.—Routes from Ullapool, Coigach, Little Loch Broom, Loch Greinord; Road to Poolewe, 14.—Road to Auchnasheen; Loch Torridon, 15.—Loch Maree, 16.—Gairloch; Flowerdale; Poolewe, 17.—Roads to Shieldaig and Applecross; The Beallach; Applecross, 18.

To Kyle Akin.

	Miles.
Contin	7
Strathgarve, or Garve Inn	7½
Auchnanault (good)	11

	Miles.
Auchnasheen (inn now removed)	5
Luip (public-house)	3
Craig, do.)	8
Jeantown (good inn)	9
Strome Ferry	5
Kyle Akin	12
	67½

To Ullapool.

Strathgarve Inn	14
Glascarnock (public-house)	12
Fascrinich (public-house now removed nearly a mile farther on, to Braemore)	13
Ardcarnich (public-house)	7
Ullapool	5
	51

To Poolewe.

Auchnasheen		30½
Kinloch Ewe (new inn)		12
Slatadale to Poolewe	by old road	12 6
	(By new road.)	
Slatadale to Gairloch Inn	8	
Gairloch to Poolewe	5	
	13	
		60½

To Shieldaig.

Jeantown		50½
Kisborn	5	5
Applecross	12	
Shieldaig		9
	17	64½

1. From Dingwall, the main parliamentary road to the west coast of Ross-shire proceeds through a succession of valleys, extending nearly to about the same length as the great glen of Inverness-shire. The first of these is Strathpeffer, stretching five miles westward from Dingwall. It was, till within a few years, a low marshy valley, occupied by stagnant waters, large reeds, and a few stunted alders. Now it yields the most luxuriant crops of grain, and is one of the richest and best-peopled districts in the country. On one side the parks and woods of Tulloch Castle (D. Davidson, Esq.) diversify the front of the hill which intervenes between the strath and the base of the

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mountain Ben Wyvis; and, on the other, the ridge, significantly called Druimchat, or the cat's back, which separates the valley from the policies of Brahan and Strathconon is crowned with the vitrified fortress of Knockfarrel, one of the most celebrated and, at the same time, one of the most beautiful and strongly marked hill-forts in the country.

The vitrified rampart at top encloses an oval area about 140 yards long by 40 wide, with breastworks proceeding down the adjoining slopes. There was a well or tank for rain-water on the summit; and the sections made long ago by Williams, one of the earliest writers on these forts, still remain open, and show the great extent of the vitrified matter, which is in some places from eight to ten feet deep. The fir woods stretching down from the southern side of this station embosom a beautiful little lake (Loch Ousie), with tree-clad islands and promontories, and which, especially from the southern shore, displays magnificent views of Ben Wyvis, with a soft and rich foreground.

Strathpeffer has, of late years, become a fashionable watering-place. Near Dingwall it contains some chalybeate springs, which, however, are not much used; but at the opposite extremity of the valley a handsome pump-room has been erected over a well strongly impregnated with sulphureted hydrogen gas, and which is recommended as a cure for a great many diseases. Dr. Thomson, of Glasgow, on analysing this water, found that, while a quantity of it holds twenty-seven cubic inches of sulphureted hydrogen gas, a like quantity of the celebrated Harrowgate water contains only about twenty cubic inches. In the Strathpeffer Spa several saline ingredients also exist, which add much to its medicinal properties. The following are the results of Dr. Thomson's analysis of the well, till lately principally used; but adjoining it an older and much stronger and more abundant spring has this season (1850) been found.

An imperial gallon of the water attached to the pump-room yielded—

Sulphureted hydrogen gas, 13·659 cubic inches.	
Sulphate of soda	52·710 grains.
Sulphate of lime	30·686
Common salt	19·233
Sulphate of magnesia	4·855
	107·484

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Until of late years strangers found much difficulty in obtaining lodgings in the vicinity of this well. Several villas and neatly built houses, however, are now springing up about the place; and there are two good inns, at one of which, the Spa Hotel, visitors often arrange to mess together at a common table, when the charge for board and lodging is two guineas a-week for each person. In summer, private lodgings near the well cost from 10s. 6d. to 21s. and 50s. a-week. The season for drinking the waters in greatest perfection extends from the month of May till October. Their valuable properties are undoubtedly derived from the bituminous rock through which the waters flow, and which is a member of the old red sandstone formation. Composing the hill of Tulloch on the northern boundary of Strathpeffer, the rock passes by Castle Leod, and assumes its most characteristic form on the estate of Coul, that of a dark-coloured calcareo-bituminous schist, soft and foliated, and frequently much contorted and mixed with beds of shale, abounding with *pyrites*, or *sulphuret of iron*, the rapid decomposition of which by water obviously gives rise to the medicinal springs. This rock displays most singular and unaccountable contortions, more numerous and varied in aspect and position than almost any other rock in the Highlands. It also contains, in a few places, some small pieces of pure hard bitumen, which have occasionally been collected, and used as coal by the tenantry on the Tulloch and Cromertie properties, on which it is found. This anthracitic coal has also been discovered on the ridge north-west of the Dun of Castle Leod imbedded in primary *gneiss* rocks, a most unusual occurrence.

2. The greater portion of Strathpeffer formed part of the estates of the old Earls of Cromarty (Mackenzies), which now belong to the Marchioness of Stafford, one of whose residences, Castle Leod, is in the immediate vicinity of the Spa. Placed near the base of a round-topped ward-hill, and surrounded with avenues and clumps of tall "ancestral trees," and large parks, which conduct to the entrance of an alpine valley and rivulet immediately to the westward, and which form a convenient pass on the ascent of Ben Wyvis, Castle Leod presents as truly venerable and baronial an appearance as any residence in the Highlands.*

* A single chesnut tree here was lately thrown down by the wind, which measured 24 feet in girth at the ground, and 18 feet breast high.

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Opposite the castle is the small rural village of Auchterneed, which straggles up the hill side with its little patches of corn land, originally allotments to the hardy veterans who returned unscathed from the great American war. There are a few still alive who remember the enrolment of the Highland corps; and it but ill assorts with the free notions of the present day to think of the manner in which they were embodied. Their landlord, Lord Macleod, fixed a day for meeting his people at the castle; and taking the rent-roll of the estate, his factor and he arranged the number of young men that could be spared from each farm and homestead, and then announcing their resolves to the tenantry, their behests were most unhesitatingly and thankfully acceded to.

3. Ben Wyvis, or Ben Uaish, "the Mountain of Storm," is of easy ascent, but from the quantity of mossy ground at its base, and the great breadth of its shoulders, an excursion to its summit is generally regarded as very tiresome. Visitors may avoid much of the fatigue by riding part or most of the way, provided they can procure ponies accustomed to soft hilly ground. From the summit the view of course is most extensive; and a hundred-fold worth all the labour of climbing to it. Ben Wyvis is the king of Ross-shire mountains, and, indeed, of all the mountains on this side of the island; but its importance arises less from its altitude (by the late government trigonometrical survey ascertained to be 3426 feet, being less than that of Ben Dearig, on Loch Broom, which is 3551 feet) than from its enormous lateral bulk, and extensive ramifications. The noble proprietrix, however, need never be apprehensive of being unable to yield the return for which it is said she holds the mountain from her Majesty, that of producing a snow-ball from its corries on any day of the year. On the ascent, the pedestrian will be annoyed at the immense extent of mossy broken ground at the base; but after passing the first snow wreaths in Aultcunire, which we recommend as the easiest track, he will find the whole upper acclivities deeply covered with a firm elastic moss, and from the cairn on the top, he may approach and look down the cliffs of Corie-na-feol or the Flesh Corry, from the number of deer and cattle that used to tumble into it, and which has of late been a very fertile ground of litigation, more expensive many times over than its intrinsic value. Moorfowl and ptarmigan abound on the heights, and white or

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alpine hares are also numerous. They burrow and bring forth their young in holes under the peat banks, and their habits are quite intermediate between those of the common hare and rabbit; when disturbed they run first for a short distance, and then sit up on their hind legs and look at the intruder as a tame rabbit would. Ben Wyvis is composed of slaty gneiss, with numerous large veins of horneblende and granite, and intermixed with garnets. To the botanist this mountain is chiefly interesting for the earlier spring flowers, as *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *Arbutus alpina*, *Azalea procumbens*, *Betula nana*, &c., and for its mosses, and as a habitat for the scarce grass, *Alopecurus alpinus*. The lower straths and woods are more prolific in rare species. Thus in the woods of Brahan, *Linnæa borealis* occurs in great beauty, and in the Coul fir wood, about a mile to the west of the Strathpeffer pump-room, the extremely scarce and beautiful little bell flower the *Pyrola uniflora*, has been detected in two or three large patches, as also *Corallohiza innata*, *Malaxis paludosa*, and *Lycopodium inundatun*.

4. Strathpeffer, now the resort of the fair and the gay, as well as of the sick and decrepit, was, in days of yore, about the year 1478, the scene of a bloody conflict between the Macdonalds of the west coast and the Mackenzies, who were aided by parties of their neighbours, the Dingwalls, Baynes, Maccullochs, and Frasers, in which the latter were victorious. Gillespie Macdonald the nephew, or, as some say, the brother of the Lord of the Isles, headed one party, and the chief of the Mackenzies, whose residence stood on an island in the small adjoining lake of Kinellan, commanded his troops in person.

This chief had, for a slight offence, repudiated his wife, a sister of the Macdonald, and married another lady, a daughter of Lord Lovat. The clan, in revenge for the injured honour of their chieftain Macdonald, laid waste the lands of the Mackenzies. It is said they were challenged by the latter to meet them on this spot, and the combat which ensued was most desperate. A thousand of the Islesmen were either killed or drowned in the river Conon while attempting to escape. This conflict is generally known as the battle of Blar-na-caun or Blar-na-Parc, and was immediately followed by the utter downfall of the Macdonalds, Earls of Ross, and the complete establishment of the power of the Mackenzies. Kenneth-y-vlair, the conqueror in this battle, was afterwards knighted by James IV., and w

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buried at Beauly; and, being succeeded by his son Kenneth Oig, (or the younger,) his estates were long managed by Hector, the uncle of the latter, and who was founder of the house of Gairloch. During his tutory, Sir William Monro of Foulis, harassed the Mackenzies, and it is said even carried off by force Seaforth's lady; but the tutor of Kintail finally defeated him on the ridge of Knockfarrel, and the spot where the Monroes and their allies first gave way, is marked (a little below the pump room) by a stone pillar with an eagle—the Monroes' crest, rudely carved on it, and which is called *Clachan-Tiom-pan*, or the turning stone. This neighbourhood would admit of a guide-book for itself, so rich is it in varied and interesting scenery and traditionary story, and we have dwelt rather much in detail, as Strathpeffer is now a place of great resort. As our limits are circumscribed, we will only at present add, that Episcopacy was long of giving way here, and even after its overthrow, some of its old nonjuring clergy were quietly permitted to enjoy their stipends till their deaths. At Fodderty, however, the people for a long time, defied the Presbytery; and at every attempt even for years after the beginning of last century to settle a minister, the *old wives stoned* him back and would not permit him to enter the church.

5. Quitting Strathpeffer, the road again brings us to the banks of the Conon, passing by the beautiful manse and island of Contin, and the mansion-house of Coul (Sir Alexander S. Mackenzie, Bart). This is the proper and finest native woodland district of Ross-shire, and is, at the same time, greatly diversified with alpine and lake scenery, and fertile cultivated fields.

Crossing, a little below the beautiful residence just mentioned, by a handsome bridge, over the river Blackwater, which flows from Loch Garve, lying to the westward, the road ascends the birchen height on the west bank; but on passing Contin Inn, near the bridge, a branch road will be seen deflecting to the south, which conducts past Loch Echiltie and Comrie, to the falls of the Conon, and the strath of that name. As we would recommend an excursion in this direction to the visitors of Strathpeffer, as well as to tourists generally, we will here endeavour to thread them through its various beauties as succinctly and accurately as we can.

6. Behind the conflux of the rivers Conon and Blackwater,

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which unite a little to the east of Contin village, a broad alluvial flat will be seen, extending to the base of a beautiful rounded birch and pine-clad hill, from which a long undulating ridge declines to the westward. This hill is called Tor Echiltie, and is an excellent botanical habitat. It exhibits an interesting junction of the old red sandstone and primitive gneiss rocks, the former being seen abutting against the others on the eastern frontlet, at a high angle; while all along its base, and on each side of the adjoining valleys, the eye will be struck with a succession of beautiful terraced banks, on which several sweetly-placed cottages have been erected. A private drive round Tor Echiltie to the southern side, proceeds through splendid oak and birch copses, overhanging the bed of the river Conon. Returning, however, to the branch road which, as we mentioned, strikes off at the inn of Contin, on the Blackwater, we shall find that it leads us past the pleasure-grounds of Craigdarroch, lying at the base of an oak-covered rocky bank of that name, to Loch Echiltie, an exquisitely beautiful sheet of water, about three miles in circumference, which is embosomed among birch-clad knolls, formed of the terminating ridges of Tor Echiltie on the south side, but which, on the opposite hand, rise into higher, and bolder, and more picturesque eminences. Two or three small islets at the lower end, and several wooded promontories projecting into the lake, afford beautiful foregrounds to the view; while the extreme distance is closed in by the sharp blue-toned peaks of Scuirvullin in Strathconon. The carriage-road keeps along the northern shore, and after a few abrupt ascents and descents among the birken knolls, it leads us past a series of little circular lochs or ponds, (the edges of which are surrounded by magnificent belts of the broad-leaved white water-lily, and their coves the nestling-places of water-fowl), and then ushers us, two miles on, to the smooth green plain of Comrie, and the beautiful pastoral valley of Scatwell, watered by the combined streams of the Meig and the Conon.* The former river flows from Strathconon, which lies almost due south from the spectator, its direction being strongly marked by the great guardian peaks of Scuirvullin; while the latter is found to turn to the right hand, and is discovered to proceed through an opening of the mountains at the lower end of Loch Luichart.

* A fine *heronry*, with numerous nests, exists in an island on a lake a little to the north-west of Loch Echiltie.

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This lake, which is celebrated for its trout, is the parent reservoir of the Conon, which, for the first mile of its course, tumbles over a series of gneiss rocks, dashing its waters through them in several picturesque low cascades, or running cataracts. The bold rocky frontlet which overhangs the lake and these falls on the southern shore, is called Scuir Marxy; and, although not above 1600 feet high, we can recommend it to the botanist as exhibiting, at this low elevation, several interesting and truly alpine plants, as *Rubus Chamæmorus*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Circea alpina*, *Arbutus alpina*, and in connexion with the ridges stretching westward to Mossford, whole forests of the suberect but beautiful dwarf birch, or *Betula-nana*. Its gneiss rocks, also, abound in large crystals of shorl, inclining to tourmaline. Tor Echiltie is the extreme westward limit of the common whins and broom, neither of which are found as native plants further inland, nor on the west coast, though it has there been extensively introduced.

7. We have now led our readers six or seven miles westward from Contin; and, before returning to the main road, we would advise them to pursue their course through Strathconnon to the top of Scuirvullin, which lies not more than eight miles farther on. A ford across the rivers Conon and Meig will be found near their junction, through which horses can pass, if the weather is fine and dry; but the regular ferry-boat, which lies a little farther down, opposite Milltown of Scatwell, near the beautiful residence of Captain Douglas, will be preferred by strangers, especially if the waters are high. Attaining the southern bank, a fine new road, which commences at the Muir of Ord near Beauly, where it leaves the main post road, and conducts along the side of the valley, leads us, a mile on, over a high and bare rocky ridge, to the entrance of Strathconnon. It is a green, narrow, pastoral plain, once the bed of an ancient lake, the waters of which, in cutting through the barrier of rock at the lower end, penetrated to a great depth, and formed a channel for the present river Meig, which here presents the unusual but very interesting appearance of a continuous cataract nearly a mile in length, rushing along at the bottom of a narrow, savage gorge, which few heads can bear to look into. Some scattered birches, oaks, and roan trees in the clefts of the "Black Rocks," as they are called, give us an index to their height; and perhaps the passenger in the summer season may enjoy the additional

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excitement of beholding the tenants of a neighbouring hamlet descend these steep rocks for salmon, which they catch in wicker baskets suspended over the falls below, or which they spear while resting themselves in the still pools and eddies at the sides of the river. A false step in this descent would prove instant destruction; and when the waters are swollen with rain, no man could stand against their stream if once fairly involved in it.

A few large alder trees and birch copses line the margin of the river and the sides of the valley of Strathconnon, which is seldom half a mile wide; but which retains still the melancholy proofs of having once been thickly peopled, in the numerous deserted and ruinous houses and hamlets strewn over its now lonely pastures. Part of an old estate, the owners of which were attainted for their participating in the rebellion of 1745, Strathconon has never since regained a proprietor's family, attached by old recollections and kindly services to the poorer inhabitants; and being long in the hands of creditors, and exposed to all sorts of experiments in the arts of sheep and cattle grazing, many fires have in consequence been extinguished in it, which were rekindled no nearer than the other side of the Atlantic; and gloomy, therefore, must be the feelings with which the stranger will now trudge on over its almost silent fields. Several rather large farm-steadings and shepherds' cottages, however, are still to be seen; and when the tourist approaches near the base of Scuirvullin, he will descry the white walls of the government church, and the neat, respectable manse of the minister of the district, with the large shooting-lodge of Mr. Balfour, the recent purchaser of the estate, near to which the road crosses the river by a bridge, but as yet it has not been carried farther.*

8. Scuirvullin may be ascended without a guide, and the outer breastwork, which composes its base, may be scaled along the course of a small burn immediately to the north-west of the church. This is the most arduous part of the ascent; for, having surmounted it, the higher acclivity is found to be a gently inclined and mossy plane, which is nowise steep. Close by the summit the rocks jut out, and, for a short way, make

* Great quantities of *honey* are raised in this district; and the gardens at lower Scatwell bring to perfection almost every variety of fruit, and of the most delicate foreign flowering shrubs.

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the ascent to the highest central peak more abrupt. The other two pinnacles, which are much sharper, are not nearly so accessible; and the eastern one is separated from the main body of the mountain by a deep, circular hollow or corry, at the base of which lies a small lake or tarn. The fundamental breastwork composing the lower acclivity rises, as a continuous wall of rock, nearly 600 feet high, all round the mountain; proceeding westward past Strath Bran, and turning thence round by Strath Manie, which skirts it on the south, it deflects into Strathconnon, thus shewing the mountain to be isolated, and contained between three great valleys, its circumference extending at the base to nearly eighteen miles. Scuirvullin is an isolated three-topped mountain, with a deep corry and lake between two of the summits, about 2500 feet high, and it consists entirely of micaceous schist, inclining in some places to gneiss. All the common alpine plants are to be seen on it; but the dryness of its surface, and low elevation, prevent our recommending it as a peculiarly good locality for the examination of the botanist.

9. The tourist must now return to Contin by the way he left it; but if desirous of gaining the main road from Dingwall to Loch Carron, he can proceed directly across the northern shoulder of Scuirvullin, by a continuation of the Strathconon road into Strath Bran, and he will attain his object after crossing some rather soft ground, being ushered to the parliamentary road half way between Auchnanault and Auchnasheen. The country people, in passing to and from the west coast, always adopt this route; and, from experience, we can assure our readers that in summer it is quite safe, much more interesting, and greatly shorter than the other, especially if the journey is undertaken from Inverness or Beauly, in which case the road by Arcan, Fairburn, and Strathconon, should be exclusively followed. But to return to the Dingwall road.

10. Ascending from Contin towards Strathgarve, the next valley towards the west, over a series of birch-clad hills, the picturesque waterfalls of Rogie, which have been likened to those of Tivoli in Italy, present themselves in the river below us, and to which the proprietor has formed an accessible footpath, and connected the opposite banks by a neat airy bridge, now, however, requiring to be repaired.

Loch Garve is a fine open sheet of water, with extensive

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green meadows and plantations at the west end. The inn is small, but comfortable; and here, whether he has to proceed on to Loch Carron, or over the *Dirie More* to Loch Broom, the traveller takes leave of the cultivated and wooded scenery. Those immense sheep-tracts here commence, which supply the great staple commodity of this county—the farms varying in size, being capable of accommodating from 2000 to 10,000 sheep, or more, some of them occupying whole estates, and one gentleman having almost an uninterrupted sheep-walk from the pastures of Wyvis to the western sea. One hundred pounds is the average rent applicable to the pasture of 1000 sheep; and to shew the change of value of the land, we may mention, that the hill grounds of Fannich, were rented, not above 70 years ago, for five pounds, while they now yield annually nearly as many hundreds. A system thus requiring the land to be exclusively and *quietly* devoted to the "beasts of the field," could not admit the presence of the old Highland peasantry; and hence they have had to emigrate, or to be crowded into small hamlets of turf-built huts, each with a croft or a few roods of enclosed arable ground, (for which, however, they pay from *three* to *five* guineas a-year, a rent which the land itself cannot produce), or they are still found densely *huddled* together on some bye corner or promontory of the west coast, where they are allowed to *squat*, and eke out a livelihood by fishing.

11. Loch Luichart, with its heaving braes and fine rocky screens on the southern shore, where the summer-sunset effects are exquisitely beautiful and varied, relieves much of the monotony of the journey through the bleak bare mountains. Although the hand of taste and opulence is now discernible on its shores, and especially around the beautiful shooting lodge of the proprietor, Sir James J. R. Mackenzie of Scatwell, yet its native glory has departed, for it was once, about a generation ago, encircled within an oak forest, having some of the largest stems in the Highlands, the felled stumps of which are still occasionally to be seen, and at a little distance are often taken for rocks instead of trees. At Grudie, where the river issuing from Loch Fannich comes roaring down from the right, the road enters a picturesque gorge, and immediately after ushers us on the great upland valley of Strath Bran, which stretches for eight to ten miles before us a broad sheet of meadow pastures, through-

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which the silver thread of a small river, expanding here and there into pools and lakes, creeps lazily along. At its farther end, the abrupt descent and inclination of the hills to the west coast is perceptible; while the southern flank of the strath is bounded by the beautiful peaks and ridges of Scuirvullin, and the northern by the long green slopes of Foin Bhein, (Fingal's hill),* and the other rich pasture hills of Loch Fannich.

Beautiful terrace banks encircle Strath Bran; and as we approach Auchnasheen, they are deflected into the opening by Loch Roshk, towards Lochs Maree and Torridon. At Luip we pass the last fresh-water lake (Loch Scaven), whence the streams begin to bend towards the west coast; and presently the upper bays of the salt-water loch Carron come into view. Here also are met the wrecks of another splendid oak and pine forest; and the mountains opening wider their arms, and decreasing in height, give space to fields and large belts of cultivated ground, and to a broad expanse of sea, which is often enlivened by multitudes of boats and busses occupied in the herring-fishery.

Since leaving Strathpeffer, the principal properties through which the road passes belong to Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Coul, Sir James J. R. Mackenzie, Thomas Mackenzie, Esq. of Ord, and Sir Evan Mackenzie of Kilcoy. We now enter on the domains of Thomas Mackenzie, Esq. of Applecross, late M.P. for the county of Ross.

From Jeantown on Loch Carron, where there is a long and straggling, but prosperous fishing village, the Skye road leads to Strome Ferry, which was anciently guarded by a square keep or castle, and thence by Balmacara to Kyle Akin. Some noble views are obtained, on the way to the latter place, of the fine inlet of Loch Duich, and the steep and lofty alps of Kintail. Some, however, prefer taking a boat the length of Plockton, and thence crossing over by a new road (six miles) to Kyle Akin, or at once sailing direct to Broadford, in Skye, which is the preferable course, if it is meant to perambulate that island.

12. The districts to which the roads branching northwards

* Sportsmen and tourists often rest awhile at the comfortable inn of Auchnanault, and the latter generally ascend Scuirvullin from it. We would recommend Foin Bhein as preferable, inasmuch as it is directly opposite the Scuirmore of Fannich, which with its associated alps is cut into stupendous corries and precipices, and as it is nearer to the western chains on Lochs Maree and Torridon, and besides commands a view of both seas. The ascent is quite gentle; and the back of Foin Bhein itself, overlooking the loch, is cut from the summit downwards into a series of grand cliffs. The botany is intermediate between that of the east and west coasts.

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from the Dingwall and Loch Carron road lead, are among the wildest and least known in the country; but they abound, in several places, with striking and varied scenery. They are three in number:—

1. From Strathgarve to Ullapool, on Loch Broom.
2. From Auchnasheen to Lochs Maree and Torridon, and the district of Gairloch, ending with Poolewe, the packet station for Stornoway.
3. From Jeantown, on Loch Carron, to Shieldaig and Applecross.

We shall describe each of these routes in their order.

1st. The district road to Loch Broom, and the village of Ullapool, on the shores of that loch, strikes off near Garve Inn, proceeding over the high ascent of the Dirie More. Its old course may be seen for a mile or so, tending to the north-east of Loch Garve; but a gentler line has lately been taken to the north, along the Dirie Water by Achnaclerach and the deer forest of Kirkan. The distance to Ullapool is about thirty-seven miles. This road was first made about sixty years ago, at the expense of government, and cost £4500, and it was then one of the best roads in the Highlands; but, after being long neglected, it is now undergoing a thorough repair. It conducts across a dreary district, called Strath Dirie and the Dirie More (the long road or step), to the glen at the head of the larger Loch Broom. There are two very indifferent public-houses on the way, the first at Glascarnock, about twelve miles from Strathgarve, and the other at Braemore, a like distance from the former, at which also provisions are not always to be had; and then the traveller has to trudge on for other seven miles, to a miserable little village called Ardcarnich, where he may possibly get some refreshment, should he previously resolve not to throw himself on the hospitality of some of the farm-houses; but the accommodation will doubtless soon also partake of improvement. The mountain torrents which cross the Ullapool road are exceedingly annoying to travellers; and the largest one, the Torrandu river, a little beyond Glascarnock, is not always fordable with safety; but we are glad to hear that the bridges are now being all restored, and this season the line is expected to be open throughout. The very existence, not to say prosperity of the Loch Broom and Dundonald people, who

are in a state of abject pauperism, almost depends on this great line of communication with the lowland markets, and the proprietors are actively exerting themselves to complete the line of communication by Dundonald and Loch Greinord to Poolewe. The strong pedestrian can greatly diversify and shorten the way, if, instead of quitting the main road at Garve, he goes on to the public-house at Grudie, and then takes a guide over the hill past the end of Loch Fannich by Ault Derag, Ault Cunire (the Fox's Burn), and Ben Lia, and crossing high up the Torrandu to avoid the boggy ground which skirts it lower down, he should reach the Dirie More road a little westward of Loch Drome or Druim, not far from the top of Strath Broom, where the waters shear to the opposite coasts. By taking this route the tourist sees Loch Fannich, which is a mirror encased among most wild and picturesque mountains, of which its two great guardians at the east end, Cairn-na-Beast and Ben Eigen (or the difficult pass), with their splendid deer corries and rifted precipices, are particularly striking; and where (especially in Garrow Corrie-More and Quilichan, and indeed all the way to Ullapool), if in any parts of Britain, there are the most undoubted evidences of ancient glacial action. A close view is also had of the Scuir-more of Fannich, and at the same time all the stupendous, wild, and terrific screens and ranges of mountains which rise along the western and northern sky burst on the sight; as those of Loch Maree, Strath-na-Shalag, Ben More of Coigach, Ben Derag, and Ben Lair, at the top of Strath Dirie, and the more distant but exquisitely-formed peaks of Freevater. Each district in Ross-shire is thus distinguished by its own group or cluster of high bare rocky alps, and each is marked by its own peculiar form and outline, while great blanks occur between the lower heights, which are composed of long unbroken chains and ridges, separated by wide table-lands or pastoral valleys. Strath Dirie is one of these, nearly twenty miles long, and which, even from the road through it, is visible from end to end, the road itself appearing as a faint yellow line undulating along the heath. The most oppressive gloominess prevails throughout its solitudes; no sounds to break upon the ear, save the bleatings of sheep or the lowings of cattle; no trees, no houses, or marks of man, save a few shepherd's huts at great distances from each other, or the grass-covered walls of hamlets long deserted, and the rude cairn piled here and there

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to mark the graves of persons who perished in the storm. With Goldsmith's Traveller one feels himself continually exclaiming that here "wilds immeasurably spread, seem lengthening as they go."

A sudden bend northward at the pretty Falls of Strome, where dwarf birch, alders, aspens, and rowan trees first again meet us, changes the scene, and the lower, softer, and grass-clad hills of Loch Broom or Broam (the Lake of Showers), greet the eye. Cultivation and dense fringes of copsewood occupy the strath, and in the background the bright waters of the ocean, dotted with sunny islets and rocky promontories, are spread out for many miles; the whole view to the northward being closed in by the long and singularly bold *Ben More of Coigach*, which resembles a quantity of bright red drapery hung by invisible cords from the sky, its front being quite precipitous, and seared by innumerable water-courses.

The big strath and shores of Loch Broom resemble some of the finest and best wooded districts in Argyleshire, while the mountain-ranges rise very abruptly, and are of very peculiar outline from the frequent straight lines and their sudden deviations. Inverbroom, which lies on the west side of the river, is now the spacious shooting-lodge of D. Davidson, Esq. of Tulloch, and immediately beyond are the beautifully lying church and manse of Loch Broom, the glebe extending for two miles down along the loch, and, besides small patches of corn ground, affording pasture for several hundred sheep. The rough foot-path to Dundonald and the beautiful valley of Little Loch Broom crosses it. On the east side of the bay, we pass the house and farm of Inverlair, indicated by its ruined chapel and burying-ground, and which is an old holding of the Coul family, now converted into a fine sheep-walk, but capable of extensive agricultural improvement. The house, we believe, was erected by the British Fishery Society, and intended for an inn, but the neglect of the Dirie More road, till of late, rendered such a luxury unnecessary. A very marked feature of the vegetation in this district is its constant greenness—a sort of perpetual spring. Even late in summer there is a continued shooting forth of leaf and flower, with little tendency to ripening—the hazels and alders are mere bushes, rarely attaining to the maturity of trees, and are interwoven into perfect thickets by long rank twigs of dogrose and woodbine; while, even in the

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end of July, the sward beneath is bedecked with the delicate petals of such spring flowers as the wood sorrel, harebell, dog violet, and primrose. So umbrageous and dark are the copses, that the thrush is tempted to sing the whole day long, and not in the morning and evening, as elsewhere, and the bat comes forth in broad daylight. A soft *dasied* zone of meadow-land encircles the whole of Loch Broom, the rocks of which are formed of gneiss, and this green carpeting instantly disappears as we reach the red sandstone deposits on the outer shores to the west or northward, which are all brown and heathery. Small irregular crofts of corn land have been gained from the pastures, on which, in general, clusters and rows of black huts arise, having walls and passages of loose stones leading up to them disposed in all the labyrinthic forms of the Chinese puzzle; and to each such little holding is attached the privilege of an outlet for one or two cows to the hill-grazing above, which, however, is limited to the ridges next the sea. The rent of the crofts varies from one to five guineas a-year, the average on the adjoining estate of Coigach being £3 : 8 : 6 to each crofter—no part of which is ever looked to as to be produced by the land, but to be won from the sea, if the fishing should be prosperous. In short, the people seem to be *penned* in, not the sheep; and while squalid poverty is marked in every countenance, the average number of each family is 6½ souls, which is equal to the most prolific and wretched Irish cabins. Thousands are willing and anxious to emigrate, but it is only the robust and active who are able to earn as much as to defray their passage; and hence the Highlands are yearly being drained of the young, while the old and feeble are of necessity, and most reluctantly, left as paupers at home. Trees would grow well in this district, (as may be seen at the manse, Inverlair, and Loch Melim); but the poor Highlanders would not now let them grow, the temptation to use them for firewood and spars being too great. The herring seems to be almost the only fish the native cares to look after, (perhaps from its giving them only occasional and exciting occupation); and hence their boats are not fitted for deep-sea fishing: and in consequence the produce of the coast in cod and ling is annually picked up by enterprising crews from Buchan and the Moray Firth, in the very teeth of the lazy, half-famished Highlanders.

13. Ullapool, like many more renowned cities, looks best

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from a distance, and from the sea. It stands on a fine terraced, gravelly promontory, about half a mile square, between the Loch and the mouth of the river of Achall, and from the sea-beach to the summit it exhibits several parallel lines of houses, most of them whitewashed, and slated or tiled, the church, manse, and the principal inn, being the most conspicuous. A few handsome old ash trees about one of the residences and the burying-ground, with a neat harbour and breakwater, form the chief adornments of the place—the post-office and all the principal shops and houses being arranged along the beach, looking southwards, and extending along its whole length; but behind these, three parallel and spacious streets, with ample gardens, were lined off for the poorer fishermen, though, in fact, they have only been half finished. The village was founded by the British Fishery Society about sixty years ago, when the herring trade was at its height, and was intended to be a beautiful town on a spacious and regular plan; but the herring shoals having for many years abandoned the adjoining loch, the prosperity of the place has been sealed up, and now "ruin greenly dwells" in many a half-built house of considerable outward show, the one end only being occupied as a dwelling, and the other left to the elements, or as a residence to the cow and pig. A more delightful bathing beach could not be desired than that of Ullapool—the air, in summer, is soft but bracing—the splendid mountain scenery is generally enlivened and set off by boats and vessels, which here find a safe anchorage; and should the herring fishery revive, and the land communication by the Dirie More to Dingwall, and Achall to Bonar Bridge and Tain, be again properly opened up, Ullapool may yet revive, and become, more efficiently than at present, the emporium and market-town to the neighbouring extensive districts of Loch Broom, Coigach, and Assynt.

The popolution of Ullapool is between 700 and 800 inhabitants. They held their tenements, till lately, of the Fishery Society, who feued the ground from the superiors, the Cromarty family, and sub-feued it again at one penny for every foot in front, and sixty feet back, the arable land behind which is as regularly subdivided as the area of the town, being let at 20s. to 32s. per acre. James Matheson, Esq. of Achany and Lewis, M. P. for Ross-shire, has recently purchased the village, and under his fostering care the inns, and every other accommo-

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dation in and about the place have already been immensely improved.*

The further bank of the river beyond Ullapool is occupied by a line of straggling ugly huts, forming the fishing hamlet of Kinachryne. We trust the example set of spirited improvements on Mr. Matheson's estate may soon reach it; and to quicken the land, the people have close at hand inexhaustible beds of limestone. Coigach, as the district to the northward as far as the boundary of Sutherland is called, is an exceedingly wild and uninteresting district; but it has several very valuable pasture straths, which are largely stocked with the very best description of Cheviot sheep. The shore side and the northern section of the district is flat, and, like the adjoining one of Assynt, is overspread with numerous fresh-water lakes.

14. A walk of about twenty miles by Loch Achall (the Marquis of Stafford's shooting lodge of Rhidoroch) and Loch Damph, through beautiful scenery, by a road which does not require a great deal to make it a good one, leads to the Oikel Bridge main road, between Bonar Bridge and Loch Inver in Sutherland (described Branch E. of this route); and we recommend the pedestrian by all means to take this round rather than to pass through the uninteresting wilds and *steppes* of Coigach. Mr. Matheson has lately re-formed two miles of this road; and we doubt not the communication will soon be completed into Sutherlandshire, a matter of the greatest local importance. Whether proceeding to Assynt on the north, or westward to the districts of Dundonald, on Little Loch Broom, Greinord, or Gairloch, it is preferable, if the weather is fine, to go by boat, as a view is thereby obtained of Isle Martin, Tanera, and the Horse and Summer Isles, as well as of the various bays and headlands of the coast; but in doing so, we would caution the stranger to make a distinct bargain before he sails, and for a crew of men and not of boys.†

Loch Broom is about two miles wide at Ullapool. The

* We understand that Mr. Matheson is about to have a mail gig established betwixt Dingwall and Ullapool, and a mail packet dispatched from Ullapool to Stornoway.

† The geologist will not fail to remark, in the hill behind Ullapool, the gradual transition of the red arenaceous sandstone of the outer coasts into light gray and pure white crystalline quartz rock, but still preserving its horizontal stratification, and resting on vertical strata of gneiss and mica schist; and he will also be struck with the innumerable indications of glacial action on all the rocks of the district.

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shores at the entrance are bold and rocky, crowned with heathy pasture. The opening of Little Loch Broom, between low level sandstone promontories, reveals a fine group of mountains with a peculiar outline, and like that of the hills around the larger loch, and distinguished by one huge, broad, dome-shaped summit. All the outlines of the extensive mountain ranges here are very varied and well defined, while a number of low islands stretch to seaward; but the object to which the eye ever reverts is the magnificent Ben More of Coigach.

Loch Greinord is a spacious bay, encompassed by low rocky eminences, which, especially on the east side, form numerous separate rocky knolls, among which lie little inlets, lined with the purest sand, opening into fairy, rock-girt, verdant recesses, in which are found sheltered several snug sheep-farm houses, as Moungestle, Greinord, and Fisherfield. The opposite shore is more stony, and the coast more level and cultivated. The bay abounds with haddock, cod, whiting, and shell-fish; the Greinord river with salmon, and the mountains with deer. Bathing, the finest possible; everything to make a couple of months' summer retirement, even in this remote part of the world, quite enviable.

A good road leads for some miles from Little Greinord, on the south-west, over uninteresting rocky moorlands to the pretty bay and low promontory of Altbae, opposite Isle Ewe, a low islet on which are considerable arable tracts. From hence a rough tract crosses the hill to Tournay, an inlet of Loch Ewe, where, and also at the head of the loch, we find well-cultivated fields—the whole distance from Little Greinord to Poolewe, at the head of Loch Ewe, being eleven miles.

2D. BRANCH ROAD FROM AUCHNASHEEN TO LOCHS MAREE, TORRIDON, AND GAIRLOCH.

15. This road strikes off at Auchnasheen, five miles from Auchnanault, and is now passable for carriages all the way to Poolewe and Gairloch. From the new inn at Kinloch Ewe on Loch Maree, a branch road turns westward to Loch Torridon, but it is only completed as far as Torridon House (ten or twelve miles), where a boat should be taken to the inn and village of Shieldaig, in preference to scrambling on by the rough footpath. This branch conducts to most magnificent scenery, at the head

of Loch Torridon, where the lower acclivities of the peaked mountains exhibit vast sheeted precipices; and to one who has not time to proceed to the further end of Loch Maree, we particularly recommend it, as Shieldaig is only nine miles from Kishorn, and five more from Jeantown on Loch Carron, from either of which the communication with Kyle Akin, the point at which the Glasgow steamers touch, is direct and easy, or from Jeantown the post-gig can be had three times a-week (fare 12s.) to Dingwall; and we hope that in a year or two a road will be formed along the side of Loch Torridon, thereby, with the other roads in progress, forming a complete line of communication from the Great Glen along the west coasts of Inverness and Ross shires. Loch Torridon forms a noble arm of the sea, characterised by grandeur, from its extent, and by ruggedness, but not by beauty. It consists of three compartments, connected by narrow straits, the innermost basin being of considerable size. Long low headlands line the entrance of Loch Torridon, and afterwards rough, broken cliffs and rocks skirt the water. These, towards the upper extremity, rise into precipitous acclivities of imposing height. As a whole, it is the most striking sea loch, as Loch Maree is the most imposing fresh-water lake, on this side of Ross-shire. The village of Shieldaig, where there is an indifferent inn, and which is situated on a bay of the middle division of Loch Torridon, and at the base of a stupendous cliff of ascending precipices, piled tier upon tier, and completely screening the inner portion of the loch, contains only about 200 souls. There is no sort of trade or manufacture carried on, further than that the generality of the people are more or less engaged in the herring fishery. The inhabitants are very poor, and all the villages on the coast, as Dornie, Plockton, and Ullapool, are similarly circumstanced. Shieldaig has the advantage of possessing one of the new parliamentary churches, which, with the society schools, have here, as elsewhere throughout the Highlands, proved a source of great advantage to the people.

16. To resume now the route to Loch Maree, the road, after passing Auchnasheen, proceeds westward, through an opening of the great Fannich group of mountains, which is partly filled by the waters of Loch Roshk. Quitting it, the magnificent cluster of high-peaked mountains round the head of Loch Torridon shoot up in the western sky, and then, descending rapidly by a wild and narrow pass, called Glen Dochart, the whole length

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of Loch Maree (St. Mary's Lake), with its numerous islands, projecting headlands, and precipitous gray rocky mountains, bursts suddenly on the sight. This lake is eighteen miles long, and from one to two miles broad; and the scenery on either side of it is about the most utterly savage and terrific, in its barrenness and loneliness, of any part of this land of mountain and flood. A range of lofty mountains stretches along the northern shore, sinking sheer upon the water, and of a singularly bare hard aspect, with but a very few alluvial patches along the lake, as at Letterewe and Ardlair, which are pleasingly fringed with groups of trees. Of these mountains there are two particularly conspicuous, Sleugach and Ben Lair—the former, which lies towards the upper end (apparently not less than 4000 feet in height), rises majestically from the water, massive, lofty, and abrupt; and it uprears nobly and proudly above its shoulders an irregularly dome-shaped, storm-shattered head, from which it sends down long rocky ridges on either hand; and, as it presents a precipitous front to the lake, full effect is given to its towering proportions. The summit of Ben Lair has a long curving outline nowise decidedly marked, and recedes somewhat behind its conchoidal corries. On the south the lake is encompassed by a spacious circuit of mountains, rising range above range—their summits much independent of each other, and also gray and hard-looking—of most varied forms, comprising several peaks, each generally seeming to terminate a particular range, and exceeding 3000 feet; of graceful, easy outline, mostly, however, crenulated and serrated. They show to best advantage from the spacious sweep at Slatadale, where they are exhibited as one vast amphitheatre, and where the lower declivities are more clothed with heath and pasture than on the opposite shore. Towards the middle of the lake, the islands, twenty-four in number, are chiefly clustered. They are low, rocky, heathy, and uncultivated; untenanted, save by the sea-mews; and but partially wooded with a few old stunted pine trees. The outlet of the lake becomes narrow, and is bordered by copse-wooded eminences, and half-shrouded splintery craggy heights, backed by higher rocky hills; thus possessing much of the character of the Trosachs. In proceeding up the lake, the view of it, as we emerge from this sweet stripe, is truly magnificent; and the spectator is led at once to pronounce Loch Maree as decidedly superior to Loch Lomond and Loch

Ness, in the rugged grandeur and extent of its mountain groups, as it falls short of the richness of the former, and the woods of both. Loch Maree takes its name, according to some, from St. Maree, a Culdee from Iona, or from Applecross, where some of St. Columba's disciples settled, who took up his abode in the most northerly (a circular) little isle, which, if in his time as romantic a little spot as now, evinced propriety of choice; for, with its pebbly beach, surmounted by a thicket of oak coppice, birch, and larch, tangled with holly shoots from the old stems, reputed to have been planted by the Saint, and carpet beneath of moss, oxalis, blaeberry, and fern, it forms a most fitting retreat as anchorite could desire. In the centre of the thicket, fit locale for Druidical cemetery, there is a primitive little burying-ground, marked by narrow undressed flags and headstones, the resting-place of some families about Letterewe. Hard by is a little well, celebrated for its healing virtues, the boughs round which are hung with votive rags, and the waters of which, with the additional operation of being dragged through the loch to an adjoining isle, are deemed sovereign for the cure of insanity. On Eilan Rutich, on the south side, on which several of the Lairds of Gairloch are said to have resided, there are the remains of a circular subterannean structure, something like a Pict's house. The woods about Loch Maree were cut down about ninety years ago for the smelting of iron ore. The few remains of the forest are found on the islands, and towards the head of the lake. Before quitting its shores, we must not forget Ben Eye, at the south-eastern end, remarkable for its two high sharp peaks of pure white quartz-rock, and its beautiful and stately form. Its corries, and the solitudes of Glen Logan opposite to it, are favourite haunts of the red deer. As remarked by Dr. Macculloch, the rocks of Sleugach contain an unexampled number of varieties of quartz, and the view from its top is unusually grand and extensive.

In general, people prefer sailing down Loch Maree to walking along either of its banks, and a four-oared boat can always be hired for any distance at the rate of a shilling a mile, and a two-oared one at half that price, and a bottle of whisky for the whole voyage. The tract on the northern shore, by Letterewe, is scarcely passable at all, although it offered the best line for a road.

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The distance by land from Kinloch Ewe to Slatadale is twelve miles, whence the road is continued to Poolewe, at the head of Loch Ewe, an arm of the sea, into which Loch Maree discharges its waters six miles farther on. From Slatadale, also, a good carriage road deflects westward to the inn and village of Gairloch, distant eight miles; but it was intended chiefly as the access to the proprietor's residence of Gairloch House, or, as some English visitors dubbed it, Flowerdale, and to the parish church, from which the road is continued, of the same good character (five miles more), to Poolewe.

This road from Slatadale passes through a succession of knolls and hills of mica slate, which possess all the irregularity and tortuous windings so characteristic of countries formed of that rock. It abounds, however, as at Kerrisdale, in beautiful and sheltered dales or valleys, which in general greet the eye with long smiling corn-fields and clumps of trees.

17. Flowerdale, or Gairloch House, the seat of Sir Kenneth Mackenzie, Bart., the proprietor of Gairloch, is a commodious old-fashioned chateau, built about a century ago, and is surrounded by extensive and thriving plantations, its lawn also presenting some ancient and large-sized oak, pine, ash, chesnut, and sycamore trees. Behind the house, which stands on an elevated bank, sloping gently to the south, from which a narrow cultivated valley proceeds on either side, a very steep frontlet of rock, mantled in young wood, rises up to a considerable height, forming a most imposing object, especially when seen from the sea; and from it several higher ridges branch off, screening most effectually the little valley from the northern and eastern winds. A lesser ridge protects it also from the great power of the western sea breeze, which, besides the ornament of a crown of pine trees, has been further enlivened by large belts of furze or whins, a shrub quite foreign to this district, but which has been successfully introduced. Altogether the woodland beauties of Gairloch are quite unique in this remote corner, an earnest of what may be done with the boundless waste around, which of late have been extensively brought into culture upon a new cottar system.

Passing the sheltered bowers and the small inn of Gairloch, the road immediately ushers us on a tract of bent-covered sand-banks thrown up by the sea, and on the inner margin of which stands the church of the parish, with the ruins of an older fane

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near it, now used as a burying-ground, and which is overspread with rank bushes of *Atropa Belladonna*, or deadly nightshade. In the offing the mountains of Skye close in the horizon. Loch Ewe is lined with gray, rocky ridges of elongated and ragged outline. A cultivated space skirts its upper extremity, which is about a mile wide.

Poolewe is a small collection of slated houses, and black straggling huts, along the southern bank of the short, rapid river, which here discharges the waters of Loch Maree into the sea, each of them surrounded with a small patch of cultivated ground. The place also possesses two shops, a high, gaunt, passable inn, some storehouses for salmon and herring barrels, and a new and neat church, with manse, half a mile up the river. The adjoining river is traversed in several places by piles of stones, with cruive boxes fixed in them for catching salmon, of which it yields an excellent fishery. Grouse and ptarmigan abound in the mountains, and roe and red deer are also still numerous; but the hunting of them in these uncovered wilds is attended with unusual fatigue, and requires much caution and dexterity. The inhabitants of this district are numerous, but widely scattered. Yet, notwithstanding all their disadvantages, their occasional visits to the south, and intercourse with passing seamen, have introduced an extensive knowledge of the English language among them, and no parish in the Highlands is better provided with schools than that of Gairloch.

From Poolewe the packet from Stornoway sails once a-week. If he keep to the mainland, the tourist will find a country road, which leads over uninteresting moors to Loch Greinord, and by some grand mountain scenery, and two ferries across Little and Big Loch Broom to Ullapool; but as there is no scenery by the way particularly worthy of notice, and the walk is a very long one, it will be better for him to proceed by boat from Loch Ewe or Greinord.

There is a remarkable assemblage of mountains around Loch Fuin, three hours' walk north of Poolewe, formed by the termination of several converging ranges into a semicircle of stupendous precipices, which rise perpendicularly from the water. Should the tourist's course be to the south, a long tedious tramp across a swampy moorland will bring him from Gairloch to Shieldaig; or he may hire a boat for about 15s.

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Either route is quite uninteresting and tiresome; and we would recommend instead, that he return to Kinloch Ewe, and proceed thence by Torridon.

3D. BRANCH ROAD FROM JEANTOWN TO SHIELDAIG AND APPLECROSS.

18. We particularly recommend at least part of this way to the notice of tourists. After ascending the hill behind the village of Jeantown (on the ridge of which are the ruins of an old dune or burgh), the road passes through a rocky and prettily-wooded defile, and five miles off reaches Courthill on Loch Kishorn, the approaches to which are vividly green, owing to the cropping out of a limestone bed; and then dividing into two, at the head of the loch, one branch proceeds to Shieldaig (nine miles), and the other, turning westwards, passes up the steep ascent of a splendid deer corry, which it scales at a height of nearly 1500 feet, by the *Beallach-na-ba*, or the cattle's pass, so called in contradistinction to another pass farther north, the *Beallach-na-hara*, or pass of the ladder, up which the deer themselves can but barely scramble; and terminates (twelve miles on) at the Milntown and mansion-house of Applecross. Both these roads were formed by direction of the parliamentary commissioners; and the pedestrian can shorten that to Applecross nearly two miles, should he pass when the tide is out, by crossing Loch Kishorn on a set of large stepping-stones immediately below the house of Courthill, which are entirely visible when it is safe to take that way. The route onwards to Shieldaig is low, moorish, and uninteresting, but skirted by several large lochs or tarns, over which the high mountain of the Bein Bhain of Applecross rises, with its nearest front scooped out into six or eight deer corries, flanked by stupendous precipices.* The other route should be explored, at least to the summit level of the road, by every traveller, however pressed for time, if he wishes not to miss one of the grandest scenes in the Highlands. At present it is almost unknown; but it will scarcely yield in sublime and savage characters to the celebrated gorge of Glencoe. The road steals along the impending precipices on the north side of the corry, which rise so steep that the water-courses have had to be

* See previous part of this Branch for description of Shieldaig and Loch Torridon.

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paved for many yards above and below, to prevent the materials being swept bodily away ; and as it attains the upper rocky barriers which stretch across the summit of the pass, it winds and twists along their crevices like a cork-screw, and is upheld by enormous buttresses and breastworks of stone. The cliffs into which the mountain on the opposite side is cut, are fully six or eight hundred feet high, quite perpendicular, yet disposed in great horizontal ledges like the courses of gigantic masonry ; while from the whole being formed of bare, dark-red sandstone, unrelieved either by grass or heather, and almost constantly shrouded in mist and rain, the scene is to many quite appalling. The gusts of wind, accompanied often by sleet, which blow down this pass, frequently render it difficult even for horses to keep their footing, and occasionally the stoutest Highlanders are fain to cower down among the stones for shelter. Deer and ptarmigan are often seen at the road side, and when the summit of the corry is attained, the astonished traveller finds himself on one of the higher acclivities of the Bein Bhain ; and if the top is clear, he imagines himself (though erroneously) at no great distance from it. In fine weather, the view from this point is of course extremely grand and extensive ; and the descent thence to the secluded, pastoral, and beautiful glen of Applecross, though steep and tortuous, is ever welcomed by the tired, if not affrighted wayfarer.

Amidst the surrounding bleakness and desolation of the sandstone mountains of this district, which attain an elevation of upwards of 2000 feet, the bay and homesteads of Applecross have ever been as an oasis in the desert ; and hence they were early fixed upon by the monks of Iona as a proper site for a supplementary monastery, whence to assail the darkness of " roving clans and savage barbarians" by the light of learning and religion. At its principal natural haven, *Camus-Terrach*, or the Boat Cove, the land was claimed for the " Prince of Peace," by the erection of a large stone cross, still standing ; several other crosses lined the approach towards the sacred buildings, and one curiously carved, of a very antique pattern, occurs in the churchyard. " Fer-na-Comaraich," the " laird of the sanctuary, or of the land of safety," is the proprietor's patronymic ; and the modern name, Applecross, is founded on a tradition, that every apple in the monk's garden was marked with the sign of the cross. The breviary of Aberdeen relates, in accordance with

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what Bede writes of Lindisfarne and the other churches in England, erected after the "*Mos Scotorum*," that the church of St. Maolbrubha, at Urquhart, on the western bank of Loch Ness, was built of "*hewn oak;*" and according to the learned writer on "the Scottish Abbeys and Cathedrals," in the Quarterly Review for June 1849, "of the same fashion, doubtless, was the more famous church which St. Maolbride founded at Applecross, in the western wilds of Ross, in the year 673, and which, a century later, gave an abbot to the great house of Banchor, in Ireland." But three churches have been erected here since the Reformation; the remains of the oldest are now used as the laird's cemetery, the next, which was the first Presbyterian church, is used as a hay barn; and the third, the subsisting one, is much too large for the congregation, especially since the erection of the government church at Shieldaig. The present incumbent is only the fifth Presbyterian minister of the parish; and so obstinately attached were the rude people to their ancient Episcopal faith, that, in March 1725, the presbytery of Gairloch (now Loch Carron) held a meeting at Kilmorack, near Beauly, because, in the language of their record, "they had been *rabbled* at Lochalsh on the 16th September, 1724," a day appointed for a parochial visitation; and in 1731, Mr. Sage, the first Presbyterian minister of Loch Carron, petitioned the presbytery to *remove* him, as his life was often in danger from the lawlessness of the inhabitants, and as he "despaired" of being of service in his cure, only *one family* having been regular attendants on his ministry.

The house of Applecross is a fine old and high chateau, and the plain about it not only bears good corn crops, and some magnificent trees and young plantations, but in the garden the finest dahlias, fuchsias, geraniums, and hyderangeas, flower, and are left in the open ground all the year over; while, at the same time, in the higher grounds, the vegetation is quite *arctic*, and the species few, and even the hardy juniper becomes a short prostrate plant, instead of an upright bush. In the low strath, the air feels always mild, though moist; the light, in some places, is so subdued that the bat flies about at noon-day; but nothing can surpass the beauty of the tints on the adjoining hill-slopes, or the grandeur and variety of the sea-coast views, especially of the mountains in the Isle of Skye.

A small inn will be found at Milntown of Applecross, from

which the tourist can either return by the Beallach, or northwards through the glen to Shieldaig, or by boat to Skye or Loch Kishorn.

Now that the roads along the west coast of Ross are being completed, we trust the local proprietors will arrange for an immediate improvement of the inns. Large houses are not at first required; a few small comfortable rooms, neatly papered, and with good ventilation, but free of cross draughts, are what travellers want. And every bedroom should have a Kinnaird stove grate, and every kitchen range should be so constructed as to have a boiler with hot water always ready—a cheap luxury for which the tourist is ever thankful.

ROUTE FOURTH.—BRANCH D.

BONAR BRIDGE TO TONGUE, DUIRNESS, AND CAPE WRATH.

General Character of Sutherlandshire, 1.—Muir of Tulloch; Kyle of Sutherland Cattle Trysts, 2.—Strath Shin; Achany; Linn of Shin; Strathfleet; Mail Phaetons to Loch Shin, 3.—Ben Clibrick; the Crask; Line of policy observed in Sutherlandshire; Expenditure on improvements; Sutherlandshire Inns; Social state of the Peasantry; Projected modifications of system; Progress of Agriculture, 4.—Natural features of the county, 5.—Aultnaharra to Erriboll; Strathmore; Ben Hope, 6.—Rob Donn, the Poet; Duncan Ban MacIntyre; Gaelic Poetry, 7.—Dun Dornadilla, 8.—Strathnaver; Depopulation, 9.—Ben Loyal; Loch Loyal; Lochs Craggy and Slam; Kyle and House of Tongue; Kirkiboll Village, 10.—The Moin; Roads, 11.—Ferries; Chain Boats, 12.—Ben and Loch Hope; Camusinduin Bay; Loch Erriboll; Rispond, 13.—Cave of Smoo, or Uaigh Mhore; Cascade; Superstitions, 14.—Farout Head; Balna Kiel-house; Rob Donn's Grave; Tombstone of Donald Mac Morchie-ic-eoin-mhòir; Shipwreck; Cave of Poul-a-Ghloup, 15.—Cape Wrath; Lighthouse; View from Cape Wrath, 16.

	Miles.
Bridge of Shin	5
Lairg	6
Aultnaharra	21
Tongue	18
To the Ferry	2
Ferry	0¼
Ditto on River Hope	8
Loch Erriboll at Huelim Ferry	2
Huelim Ferry	1¼
Huelim, round the head of the Loch by Erriboll to Port Chamil, opposite side of the Ferry	12
Duirness Inn	7
Cape Wrath, including Ferry	4
	95½

	Miles.
Aultnaharra	32
Cashel Dhu	13
Erriboll	5
Huelim	3½
Cape Wrath	21
	74½
Huelim to Cape Wrath, across the Ferry	22½*

1. SUTHERLAND possesses several peculiar features, and is a county comparatively little known. Its fastnesses have been but recently rendered accessible by connected lines of road. Practised visitors of the Highlands have found their way of late in considerable numbers to Sutherlandshire; but to the mass of tourists it is yet a terra incognita. As it presents all the freshness of novelty, though remote, its wild scenery, however, will doubtless soon attract the attention of the travelling public in general. A great expanse of heathy, mossy, and treeless wastes occupies the bulk of the country, and the habitations of men are but very sparingly indeed scattered over its surface. Lonely wildness is thus a decided characteristic; but verdant straths, and splendid lakes cheer the traveller in his progress, and the lofty and noble forms of the mountains command his admiration, while the coasts, and the numerous salt-water lochs which break in and lose themselves among the precipitous mountains, present every variety of maritime landscape.

2. Proceeding westward along the Kyle of Dornoch from Bonar Bridge, the tourist passes the Muir of Tulloch, within half-a-mile of Bonar, where was fought a "cruel battell" between a party of Danes and the men of Sutherland, in the eleventh century; and many tumuli and cairns still mark where lie the remains of the fallen combatants. The heights, till we reach Portinlick, where there is a ferry across the Kyle, are, like

* We would here correct an inaccuracy in the distances between Dingwall and Invergordon and Bonar Bridge. The correct ones are—

	Miles.
Dingwall to Evanton	6
Invergordon	7
	13
Dingwall to Evanton	6
Toll-bar	2
Stittenham Inn	4½
Bonar Bridge	14
	26½

Stittenham being nearly equi-distant from Dingwall and Bonar.

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the hill sides for several miles below Bonar Bridge, on the north side—with the exception of the small estate of Creich, the property of Mr. Gilchrist of Ospisdale—covered with thriving plantations of fir and larch. On the hill above are held the "Kyle of Sutherland Cattle Trysts;" and there are few scenes more enlivening than that which on these occasions is presented, in the numerous herds of cattle, horses, sheep, and all sorts of four-footed animals; the almost equally numerous bipeds of all degrees, in the persons of drovers, gentlemen farmers, cottars, and herdsmen, and the hundred and one party-coloured tents for refreshments, formed, some of old field-tents, much the worse for the wear, others of the gaily chequered home made blanket, and many of a nondescript patchwork, composed of a mixture of all sorts of stuffs, which, though not exactly fit to bear part in a field-day exhibition, still, when viewed from a little distance, add to the general effect of the scene, and lend to it not a little the resemblance of a martial display. Both the farmer and the drover may be detected at a glance by their calculating faces; having, however, this material difference generally—that the subject of the poor farmer's calculation is the amount of loss he sustains, and according to the result is his countenance proportionally elongated; whilst the drover, whose whole trade is gambling, uniformly calculates his prospects of gain. The lowing of cattle, the neighing of horses, the bleating of sheep, and, above all, the peculiar shout of the herdsmen, who have enough to do to check the excursive propensities of their four-footed charge, help to render the scene altogether one of the most exhilarating description.

3. About two miles beyond Portinlick is the Bridge of Shin, across the river of that name, and five miles from Bonar. The road here divides, one branch leading directly west, to Assynt, the other northwards, to Lairg. This latter road proceeds along the west bank of the river of Shin,* through a narrow strath of heathy slopes rising immediately from the water, and to some height. On the west side lies the well-wooded and now highly improved and beautiful estate of Achany (James Matheson, Esq. M.P.), having a commodious mansion-house. Adjoining to it, on Loch Shin side, is the pretty property of Gruids, now

* Another road also conducts to Lairg, on the east side of the river, but the first is preferable, in so far as it proceeds through the woods and by the mansion of Achany, and close by the river, while the other commands views from above of these and of Strathoikel, and on the former the river has to be crossed at a ford.

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also acquired by him, and also between and the Oikel, the fine estate of Rosehall, forming together a very nice Highland estate. At a distance of six miles, the western road crosses the river at a ford near the village of Lairg, which stands on the east bank, and where there is also a coble and piers on the river. On leaving the river the traveller passes the Linn of Shin, where, as the name implies, there is a waterfall, more remarkable, however, as a salmon-leap than as a cascade. The salmon proceeding up the river may here be seen making many unsuccessful attempts to surmount the ledge of rock that forms the fall, which is about eight or nine feet in height, and many, by dint of great perseverance and strength, do succeed.

From the Ferry of Lairg a road leads westerly, which, at a distance of eight miles, over very dreary elevated moorland ground, joins, at Rosehall, the Assynt road from the Bridge of Shin. The few miserable huts passed at the commencement, with their scanty shapeless patches of cultivated ground partially encircled by caricature dykes of multiformed stones, and most precarious-looking formation, are very unpromising indications of the discomforts and poverty of the people. Another road, crossing the hill behind Lairg, proceeds eastward through Strathfleet, by the valuable farm of Morvich, to the Mound, fourteen miles distant, where it joins the great north road. In the lower part of Strathfleet there is a considerable collection of smaller tenants, the improvements made by whom are very pleasing, and a substantial earnest of what may, and we doubt not will, soon be done, much more extensively than hitherto in that direction. Mail phaetons, as has been already mentioned, traverse the county from Golspie to Tongue, and to Loch Inver and Scourie, and will, it is to be hoped, be speedily placed on the road from the latter place to Duirness and Tongue, and the communication round the coast be thus completed. At Lairg there is an excellent new inn, which commands a sweet view of the lower section of Loch Shin, about which there is a good deal of cultivated land. This lake is about eighteen or twenty miles in length, stretching to the north-west, and from one to two miles broad, surrounded by very low hills, rising in lengthened very slightly-inclined slopes. The inn-keeper at Lairg used to have the privilege of permitting strangers to fish till the 12th of August; but now the fishings are let, and the charge for angling is so high as 10s. 6d. a-day.

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The great opening intersecting the county from Loch Fleet to Laxford, is occupied by one continued series of lakes and streams—Lochs Shin, Grism, Merkland, More, and Stack—and a road is in course of formation from Lairg to Laxford, the line of which is almost perfectly level, and the route will be altogether one of the finest in Sutherlandshire, as it passes alongst the margin of the celebrated Reay and Foinnebhein deer-forests, and near the base of some of the highest mountains, as Ben Hee, Ben Liod, Ben Diraid, Meal Rynies, Saval More, and Foinnebhein, while various portions along the line are wooded with dwarfish birch. The lochs and streams are among the best for white fishing and salmon in Sutherlandshire. Strangers are generally free to fish for salmon and trout on the lochs, and for trout in the streams; and in those of the latter not let, the innkeepers have also the privilege, for a portion of the year, of permitting persons living at the inns to fish for salmon also. We are glad to find that this roadway is a couple of feet wider than the roads round the south boundary, and the west and north coasts, which, for most part, are only eight feet wide, with an edging of one foot of sward on each side. The distance to Laxford will be shortened to thirty-two miles, being little more than one-half the present circuit. The road keeps the north side of Loch Shin and the south side of the other lochs, the forest stretching along the north.

Having enjoyed the scenery which the waters of Loch Shin, the neat cottages, the new tasteful church, and the peaceful manse—all pleasantly situated on a sloping bank of the lake, with the Free Church and manse on the opposite side of the river—combine to present to the eye, we proceed along the margin of the loch for a distance of about two miles, when the road begins to recede from it, till at last it hides itself from view behind the mountains. Here the tourist may look upon himself as entering the *desert*—such it may well be called; for in the whole tract of country lying between Lairg and Tongue, an extent of forty miles, and a succession of elevated moorlands lying between Loch Shin, Loch Naver, Loch Loyal, Loch Hope, and the Kyle of Tongue—along the whole course of which the eye roams over miles of country, in all directions, of smooth moorland and pasture, either in great plains, or gentle and extensive inclinations—all is barrenness and waste; and human habitations are so "few and far between," that only some three

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or four exist in all the distance, to cheer the pilgrim with the assurance that he is not alone in the world.

"Yet e'en this nakedness has power,
And aids the feeling of the hour"—

that feeling so beautifully described by Byron, where he says—

"There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore;
There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in its roar."

4. There is certainly nothing within the circuit of the British dominions to equal the intensity and magnitude of the desolation of this vast region; yet is it but a more expanded sample of what is to be found in most parts of the county. We speak of those portions belonging to the Sutherland family, who own at least four-fifths, or more, of the whole. Every consideration has been rigidly made to bend to one vast scheme of sheep-farming, and to depopulation as a supposed necessary concomitant. This was no doubt the most summary, and seemingly most feasible mode of dealing with the million acres of Sutherlandshire. The task devolving on the proprietor was, perhaps, too much for an individual. To conceive of Sutherlandshire, before its vast fastnesses were made accessible by roads, to realize the consequent backwardness of the people, and to suppose to one's self the opening up of lines of communication, ameliorating the social condition of the people, and to find the means of turning the possession of this great tract of country to profitable account, is obviously to propose a problem perfectly anomalous in this country and in this age. The duty was herculean, and we may imagine the temptation in grappling with it, to adopt the most ready mode that might be presented to bring it within more manageable compass. This it may have been which recommended the policy which has directed the course of events in Sutherlandshire. We would make no invidious reflections. The position of the noble proprietors and their advisers must have been sufficiently onerous—the responsibility in itself weighty enough. But the passing traveller cannot but ponder these things, and ask himself, Can it be so that thus it ought to be—that sheep should dispossess man, and that while large fertile tracts are evidently eminently adapted for agricultural purposes? It seems so entire a reversal of the course of civilization, and would lead to so complete a *reductio ad absurdum;* for no doubt, at one time or other, the same rea-

soning might have suggested the leaving of the whole of Britain in like manner waste. We believe Sutherlandshire has proved anything but a profitable possession. The greater part of the income has, it is understood, for years, been expended in the course of the great public improvements, roads and bridges, buildings, &c., which have been carried on. Had not the country fallen into the hands of so opulent a family as that of Stafford, could such sacrifices have been made, and public benefits wrought out? In twenty years, from 1811 to 1831, there were 420 miles of road, and 134 bridges of ten feet span, and upwards, formed in Sutherlandshire, by the instrumentality of the Marquis of Stafford, and of Mr. James Loch, his commissioner, seconded by Mr. Horsburgh, and other local factors, and mainly at the Marquis's expense, though the other heritors bore their share of greater part, according to their rentals! Considerable additional length of branch roads has been since formed. Yet this is but one item. There have been the erection of inns, harbours, and others, which may be called public works, in addition to all the details of erection of farm-steadings, plantations, taking in of land, enclosures, and the public burdens incidental to landed property. Whatever construction there may be given to the counsels which advised the schemes of improvement, the greed of pecuniary gain cannot be attributed to the Sutherland family.

It is but justice to give the full meed of praise, where there is so much to invite censorious remark. The roads are most extensive, the inns are really, as a whole, unequalled in the Highlands, and may well surprise the reasonable Southron. Every thing is clean, even in the humblest inn, and comparatively comfortable, while in the best class—and such are to be found from point to point, in all parts of the county, as Dornoch, Golspie, Helmsdale, Lairg, Aultnaharra, Tongue, Duirness, Scourie, Loch Inver, Innisindamff, Melvich, and Auchintoul—the conveniences and style are perfectly surprising. They may well serve as models to the Highland inns.* The people are universally

* These inns, however, cannot be expected to have extensive accommodation. Two sitting-rooms, and from three to six bed-rooms, is about the extent of accommodation. A few have shooting-lodges attached, in which, probably, on a pinch, a bed for a night might be given to a party not able to rough it otherwise; but in the season there is at times a very considerable concourse of tourists in Sutherlandshire, and this cannot fail to increase yearly, and, no doubt, enlarged accommodations will be the result. Meantime, to come early is the best guarantee for room enough—we would say from the 10th June to the middle of July, before the great mass of health and pleasure-seeking Southrons have been able to liberate themselves. This period also will be found the most likely for a course of steady and general weather.

most civil. They speak better English, and more generally than in other parts of the Highlands; and everything bears testimony to the great and successful efforts for the amelioration of the population, whatever room there may be for diversity of opinion as to the line of policy, and however more gravely the means at times adopted may present themselves in the light of religious responsibility. The people of Sutherland decidedly rank with the best class of Highland peasantry. They are universally civil, courteous, and obliging, generally cleanly in their habits, inured to labour and industry; and the aspect of a country congregation, in point of neat and respectable attire, is very gratifying. We also happen to know, that the present noble proprietor not only purposes subdividing his sheep-farms on the expiry of the current leases, but also has projected plans of improvement, by bringing land into cultivation, and generally by the calling into action the energies of a greater number of experienced tenants, and by the introduction, at the same time, of agricultural teachers to stimulate and foster intelligent industrial effort. Much has been done on the larger farms, in keeping progress with the advancement of agricultural skill and knowledge, and some of the larger tenants, as we have already indicated, have gone ahead. Still, we believe we are not mistaken in saying that, generally, pace has hardly been kept on the Sutherland estates, in drainage and other improvements, with adjoining counties and estates; but Sutherlandshire is so unique, so gigantic a possession, that circumspection is required in drawing comparisons. The demands on the Duke are necessarily so excessive, that few other men in his situation but himself could contrive to face them at all. For instance, in the first year of the recent potato failure, he actually expended £27,000 in the providing means of subsistence, by employment and provision of food, for the starving population of Assynt, Edderachillis, and Duirness alone.

Credit is now unreservedly given to the good intentions by which the late Duchess-Countess and her noble husband were

Here, too, we would correct a mistake we were led into, page 401. At all the inns there is a conveyance of some sort to be had on hire, dog-cart or drosky, and even at the smaller inns, as Kyle Skou and Rhiconich, if nothing better, there will be at least a good spring-cart forthcoming. We would further remark, that in our notice of the inn of Stittenham, between Allness and Bonar Bridge, our notice was inadequate. It was also built by the Marquis of Stafford, when proprietor of Ardross, though since added to by Mr. Matheson, the present proprietor. It is like the best Sutherlandshire inns, a really excellent one, and forms a favourable contrast with, we regret to say, several of the Ross-shire inns.

actuated, and the liberal spirit of the present Duke, in dealing with these his northern possessions in all the specialties of their position, is universally acknowledged. Let us hope that what has been done may prove to have been like the cutting down to the roots of a plant or tree, overgrown and unproductive, despoiling it for a season of its leafy honours, but only that, after a time, it may spring up anew, luxuriant with blossom and fruit. Let us believe that in the hand of providence the excision was permitted, and brought about for good and wise purposes.

But enough of such digression which we have been led into, because this vast compass of country, so peculiar in its aspects as Sutherlandshire is, cannot fail to excite the tourist's speculation as he wends along, and subject the noble owners to critical comment.

5. The unparalleled moorland expanse of country intermediate between Lairg and Tongue, treeless and all but houseless, presents many stretches of delightful verdure, and generally in Sutherlandshire, except in the deer forests, the heath is kept very short, being burnt every seven years, so that the livery of the country is generally pleasing.

Advancing northwards from Loch Shin, the conical height of the mighty Ben Clibrick, on the south-east side of Loch Naver, right a-head, fills the eye. To the west and northward the expanded circuit is occupied by Ben More of Assynt, Ben Liod, Ben Hee (one of the highest mountains in Sutherlandshire), Ben Hope, and Ben Loyal, while behind us the Ross-shire hills make a continuous mountain outline. A striking peculiarity distinguishes the mountain scenery of Sutherlandshire. The great mass of the country is considerably raised, forming in most quarters an elevated table land of smooth moorland or rocky eminences. On this universal base, diversified by river courses and straths, and inequalities of all sorts, are piled a great array of generally detached mountains—huge superstructures towering, each in isolated grandeur, from 3000 to 3500 feet above the level of the sea. In consequence there is less of continuous mountainous screen than in most other parts, while each giant-like mass stands out in its own full proportions, always, too, in some of its corries and sides, sheer and abrupt from base to summit, most variously modelled, and shaping itself differently, according to the point of view; when the outlines of different mountains comingle, assuming strongly-defined ap-

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pearances; and the terminal aspects of the different masses repeatedly presenting themselves in cones, peaks, and pyramids, comprising the full elevation of the hulk, and thus of a magnitude seldom met with elsewhere, and nowhere in the Highlands in such array.

What may be called glen and valley scenery is of rare occurrence. The river and stream courses are open, their channels generally shallow, and it is among the lakes and inlets of the sea, the jutting headlands, and the upper recesses of the mountains, and in panoramic amplitude and pervading solitude and silence, that we are to look for the characteristic features of the country.

As we advance to Aultnaharra, Ben Clibrick rules sole monarch of the waste to the eastward, in which direction the country is destitute of marked elevations, excepting one hill on the east side of Loch Loyal; but in the distance, the two well-known pyramidal hills, called the Paps of Caithness, are descried. Ben Clibrick, as marked upon the map, is situated as exactly in the centre of the county as if a pair of compasses had been applied with geometrical precision in fixing its position; and from its great height, upwards of 3000 feet, and centrical situation, the view from its summit is as extensive as it is grand and various, embracing the German Ocean, the great North Sea, portions of many of the surrounding counties, and even, with the advantage of a clear day, the Orkney Islands.

After a ride of twenty-one miles over the dreary Crask (a pass), we reach the solitary inn of Aultnaharra, or Aultnaherve, near the head of Loch Naver, now as admirable as it is remote. At a little half-way house a feed of corn, or meal and water, can be had.

6. At Aultnaharra, a branch from the Tongue road diverges on either hand, one on the left leading to Loch Erriboll, the other, through Strathnaver, to Farr. Of the former, the ascent for the first four miles is constant and considerable; but on pausing and looking behind, the extensive rich green Lonn (meadow strath) of Moudale, the commanding and grand view of Ben Clibrick, and a peep of Strathnaver, prove quite refreshing. Soon the prospect opens on the other hand, and a great stretch of wild scenery is presented to view. About nine miles from Aultnaharra we enter Strathmore. Above this strath, which forms a continuation of the line of Loch Hope (a fresh-

water lake running parallel with Loch Erriboll), there is enjoyed an interesting and varied view of the rugged Ben Hope, at the south end of the east side of the loch. This mountain, which on this side exhibits a perpendicular precipice almost along its whole height, is said to be distinguished by the property of emitting, previous to tempestuous weather, a hollow sound indicative of the approaching storm, such as sung by the Mantuan bard :—

——— "Altis
Montibus audiri fragor."*

7. Aultnacaillich, in Strathmore, is the birthplace of Rob Donn, the Gaelic poet. Robert Calder Mackay, or, as he is generally called, *Rob Donn*, is regarded as the *Burns* of the North, as *Duncan Ban MacIntyre* is of the South Highlands; and, indeed, their poems form the only two miscellaneous collections of note of Gaelic poetry. The former was born at Aultnacaillich in Strathmore, in 1714; the latter in 1724, at Drumlairhaig in Glen Ogle, Perthshire. Both were uneducated men, but their productions bear the stamp of vigorous genius. An able memoir of the former, by one of the first Gaelic scholars of the age, has been published, along with his songs and poems. He would seem to have been a man of no common grasp of intellect; a shrewd observer, possessing powers of caustic satire, which, however, he employed always, and that with great independence of spirit, on the side of truth and morality. His compositions are all extemporary, struck off on the spur of the occasion; and his facility in building the lofty rhyme was not a little remarkable. There is much playful vivacity and keen sense of the ludicrous in his humorous pieces; and, in the more serious efforts of his muse, he displays justness of thought, propriety of sentiment, tenderness and warmth of feeling, and correctness of taste. His social powers made him a great favourite with all classes; but though he would appear latterly to have in some degree given way under the baneful influence of frequent convivial excitement, his character generally was unmarked by the aberrations which too frequently stain the career of genius; and, indeed, his moral deportment was such, that he was nominated an elder of his native parish at a time when the qualifications for that office were rigorously investi-

* The same phenomenon is said to be characteristic of the Cairngorm mountains in Inverness-shire.

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gated. His life was successively spent as a drover, gamekeeper, superior cowherd or bowman, and as a small farmer; and, for a time, he joined the first regiment of Sutherland Highlanders, but more in the capacity of a privileged favourite, than of a private soldier. Rob Donn's biographer ranks his compositions as inferior, in point of rhythmical beauty, to those of some other bards, especially of Duncan MacIntyre; but he accounts for this from the peculiarities of the dialect in which he wrote.

"The highest efforts of our bard's rhythmical powers is undoubtedly to be found in 'Piobaireachd Iseabail NicAoidh,' a song composed in praise of a young lady, to the well-known air of the pipe tune, 'The Prince's Salute.' To those who have attended to the variations of that air, as played properly upon the great Highland bagpipe, it cannot appear but as a very respectable effort, that the bard has met all its variations, quick and slow, with words and with sentiments admirably suited both to the air and to his subject. Duncan MacIntyre's 'Beinn D'oblorain,' is an effort of the same kind, which we grant is superior, indeed almost marvellous. But of the two, and we believe of some others of the same kind, we may claim priority for Rob Donn."—"If Rob Donn's poetry be sometimes found deficient in harmony, and its phraseology be sometimes pronounced by Gaelic critics in a measure uncouth, it will not be generally denied that he possesses the redeeming qualities, under these disadvantages, of nerve, and strength of mind and sentiment, a manly vigour of intellect, a soundness and perspicuity of good sense, that place him as a bard beside the most popular names of his country's minstrels. In the properties of true poetic fertility, of wit and humour when he is playful, elevation of sentiment when he is solemn, soundness of principle and moral feeling when he is serious, if we dare not say that he stands the first of Gaelic bards, we may say with his contemporary, Mr. John Mackay of Strathmelness—

'Leis gach breitheamh d'an eoldan,
Bidh cuimhne gu brath air Rob Donn.'

'With every judge of poet's fame,
Rob Donn's will live a deathless name.'"

We subjoin the following sensible observations from the same author, on the elegiac poetry of the Highlands. "His solemn compositions may be said to present the bard's charac-

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ter in its strength. By these, we mean principally his elegies. It is generally known, that over the Highlands of Scotland, until days yet not long gone by, every district had its bard or bards of higher or lower name; and when any individual of provincial or public celebrity died, it was customary for their death to be followed by an elegy, or some poetic praises to perpetuate the remembrance of their virtues. That such praises should always be justly bestowed, and not partake, even when merited, of poetic exaggeration, could not be expected. Feelings of personal regard, of partiality to the dead, and hopes of benefit from the living, would frequently, no doubt, enlist poetic talent to say the best that could well be said. We have good authority for maintaining it as beyond controversy, that our author on such occasions never once was hired; never was enlisted by any prospect of interest or advantage, to eulogise where he could not conscientiously commend. And his commendations bestowed in elegy will evince, we conceive, even to readers entirely strangers to the history of the individuals to whose memory they are devoted, an honesty of intention, a sincerity of mind, a purity of sentiment, that cannot fail to place the author himself in a conspicuous view, as an upholder of truth, while he describes the virtues of those whose fame he commemorates. Even the admirers of Gaelic song will allow that, in elegy especially, our Highland bards introduced almost universally much of what we cannot more correctly denominate than *rant* and *bathos*. Imaginery excellencies and virtues, factitious distinctions and pretensions, are dwelt upon with all the solemnity which the elegiac muse ought to devote alone to solid and substantial virtues. We have no desire to detract from the reputation of his brethren, by upholding the character of our author; many of his brethren's compositions of this kind are excellent, and several of them, abstractedly considered as poetical effusions, we would rank fully as high as Rob Donn's; but we cannot but feel hurt at the bombast, and sentences absolutely without meaning, with which they too frequently abound, and by which they lower, in the reader's esteem, the character they designed to commend, and give an air of littleness to their author's character of mind. All this may seem to those unacquainted with Gaelic song to be somewhat like falling into the error we would reprove; commending what merits not either censure or praise, from its very insignifi-

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cance. What can be the pretensions to excellence of the 'unlettered muse' of the Highlander? It is from an impartial conviction, we trust, of her numerous and striking excellencies, that we regret the blemishes which have attached to her achievements. We are well aware, and can never cease to lament it, that the entrance of the native muse of Scotland upon the literary stage was singularly unfortunate; that it excited prejudices in the public mind which ages may not remove. The Gael and their friends have stormed and raved about their darling Ossian. The Saxons have knit their brows, and vented their spleen at pretensions too arrogantly made, and assuredly not supported by any paramount testimony. Were we called upon to write an epitaph for the Ossianic controversy, it would be a short one: '*Est in medio veritas.*' We wish it had never been raised. The eliciting of truth, not to speak of the stubborn maintaining of error, besides the establishment of the one, or the just downfall of the other, by legitimate argumentation, can seldom be achieved without certain other effects following the excitement of party feeling, that may prove much more injurious in the end, than if the actual subject-matter of controversy had been left to sleep its own sleep. And it does by no means astonish us that, from the character of the controversy regarding the authenticity of Ossian, multitudes of our Saxon friends should both experience and testify a prejudice against all claims to excellence put forth for the native poetry of our northern land. But while we wonder not at it, we cannot but lament its existence.

"But to return to our author: we conceive that we arrogate for him no undue place, in saying that in elegiac poetry he is, upon the whole, peerless among his fellows. From the local circumstances of other districts, and of clans in the generations gone by, there is not only in their other poetry, but also in their elegies, a martial strain observable; a spirit bordering on chivalry pervades them. But our author lived in a region of peacefulness; he was not brought up in the habit, or scarcely in the remembrance, of feud, and field, and battle fray. His elegies, consequently, will be found of a different complexion from those of most other bards." Rob Donn is buried in the church-yard of Duirness.

8. At Aultnacaillich there is a fine waterfall on the right, and on the left the well-known round burgh or tower of Dornadilla,

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about twenty feet of a segment of which in height still remains. It is just about the size of the Glenelg Towers, being twenty-seven feet inside diameter, and fifty yards external circumference. Cordiner, who gives a view of this burgh, showing it to have been pretty entire in his day, supposes it to have been erected by a Scottish prince, Dornadilla. At Cashel Dhu (the Black Ford), thirteen miles from Aultnaharra, and five from Erriboll, where the winding river is crossed by a little flat-bottomed boat or coble, and where many have been drowned for want of such a shallop, is a small inn; commanding, in front of it, a view of the mountain Ben Hope, nowhere in Scotland surpassed for grandeur and sublimity. From Erriboll, the pedestrian traveller bound for the westward may either proceed round Loch Erriboll, or go on to Huelim ferry (three miles and a half distant) by a road which is six or seven miles shorter.*

9. The distance from Aultnaharra, through Strathnaver to the inn of Bettyhill of Farr, is about twenty-four miles. This road has not been completed, being carried only for nine miles down the strath, beyond which there is as yet merely a "bridle road." Loch Naver is about eight miles long, and is succeeded by a river, one of the best in the north for salmon, bordered by extensive tracts of luxuriant meadow, and improvable land, lined, as is the loch side, except by the base of Ben Clibrick, with the most softly inclined slopes, garnished with occasional copsewood of dwarf birch. Of old there were towers in sight of each other all along the strath. Latterly, in every township one or more comfortable tacksmen's houses were to be seen in close succession, and upwards of 1200 people resided in this strath. Now, for twenty miles, not a house is to be seen except shepherds' dwellings at measured distances. One cannot but regret the absence of living beings in such a scene, and of the want of those little hamlets usually seen in most Highland glens, and by the sides of clear mountain rivulets. Where are these? Wormwood, and a little raised turf, alone mark the places where they stood; the down of the thistle comes blowing from the sod over the roof-tree, the fires are quenched, and the owners are far from the land of their fathers.

10. A few miles beyond the inn of Aultnaharra on the north

* On the sea cliffs near Loch Erriboll, are seen *Carex capillaris*, *Draba incana*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *and Dryas octopetala*; the last three being found equally low at Farr, although absent at Tongue.

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side of the road, commences the boundary of the Reay country, now the property of the Duke of Sutherland. Ben Loyal's lofty summit here begins to rear itself conspicuously, presenting to the fancy at one point of view the form of a lion couchant, and at another a close resemblance to the royal arms, "the lion and the unicorn fighting for the crown." Beneath, on the east, lie the still waters of Loch Loyal, with its verdant islands, on the margin of which the road winds around the foot of the mountain, forming, along its whole extent (of about six miles), a truly beautiful and picturesque ride; but as the road keeps the west side immediately along the base of Ben Loyal, its fantastic outline is almost lost. On the banks of Loch Loyal, previous to the sheep-farming depopulation system, dwelt some of the most comfortable tenants in the county of Sutherland.

This loch is succeeded by two others, Craggy and Slam, all abounding in trout, char, salmon, and large pike.

At a short distance from Loch Loyal, the Kyle of Tongue, a long arm of the sea, with its low rabbit islands and the large rocky isle of Rona at its mouth, greets the sight, and in a few minutes the woods and plantations around the old baronial residence of Tongue present themselves in full view. Tongue house is beautifully situated at the foot of a lofty craggy mountain, on the neck of a long point or tongue of land projecting into, and about the middle of, the east side of the Kyle, the waves of which wash the very walls of the garden; whilst the "tall ancestral trees" that surround it form at once an ornament and a shelter, and pretty extensive plantations are flourishing around, a peculiarity to be noticed where trees are few and far between. The mansion itself is an old structure, no ways distinguished in its architecture, but interesting as a specimen of the honest simplicity of taste of our forefathers, and although every comfort is to be found within its exterior, the work of successive generations. This fine domain, the ancient seat of Lord Reay, chief of the clan Mackay, has now become the property of the Duke of Sutherland; and although it is natural to feel regret at the necessity which has denuded the former owner of the home of his forefathers, still it is matter of rejoicing to all the numerous tenantry of the estate, that his successor is their next neighbour, the Duke of Sutherland, than whom they could scarcely wish a more liberal landlord.

On an eminence near the sea, projecting from the foot of

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Ben Loyal stands Caistil Varrich, the ruins of an old watch-tower. The scenery about Tongue is altogether very grand, an extensive semicircle of mountains stretching around; in the centre Ben Loyal, 2508 feet in height, spreading widely at its base, and cleft above into four splintered summits, each strongly defined, and receding a little, one behind the other, and the southern extremity of the western limb of the mountain ranges, otherwise somewhat mountainous, though of no considerable elevation, suddenly shooting up in the huge mass of Ben Hope to a height of 3061 feet. On the opposite side of the Kyle, the receding slopes are partially occupied with cultivated fields.

So much is the surface of Sutherlandshire interspersed with sheets of water, that from one eminence in the parish of Tongue, no less than 100 lochs are visible at once—a peculiarity still more strikingly exemplified in the western section of the county.

The village of Kirkiboll, which is pleasantly situated upon the slope of a hill, is within rather more than a mile of Tongue House, and contains only, besides the manse and a commodious inn, a few scattered cottages. Kirkiboll is about four miles north of Loch Loyal, and eighteen from Aultnaharra.

11. Until recently there was no regularly made road westward from Tongue towards Erriboll. The traveller required a guide to pilot his dubious way across the rugged mountains, and over the trackless waste of the Moin, a highly elevated boggy moorland, stretching from the base of Ben Hope and Ben Loyal to the sea, and between Loch Hope and the Kyle of Tongue, a width of eight miles; but now, thanks to the late noble duke, (by whom, on his acquisition of the Reay country in 1829, eighty miles of road were formed at his own expense,) there is an excellent road in this direction, by which the traveller may proceed, without fear of broken bones, or the perils of bogs and pitfalls, as formerly, along the whole west coast to Assynt. Crossing, therefore, the Tongue Ferry, about a mile wide, the passage of the Moin, which formerly was the laborious achievement of an entire day, may now be accomplished in an hour's time with ease and comfort. The expense attending the construction of this piece of road must have been very great, from the mossy nature of the ground: the foundation was formed with bundles of coppice wood, laid in courses across one another, a layer of turf was next placed over these, and

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the whole being covered with gravel forms a road of the best description. Great ditches and numerous smaller drains are excavated in different parts on either side to contain the moss water.

12. The north coast of Sutherland is deeply indented by three arms of the sea, the Kyle of Tongue, Loch Erriboll, and the Kyle of Duirness, or Grudie, occasioning as many ferries to be crossed between Tongue and Cape Wrath. The river Hope to the west, and the Naver and Hallowdale to the east, of Tongue, are likewise as yet unsupplied with bridges. But these rivers are crossed by a large flat boat, which is moved from one side of the river to the other by means of a windlass and chain, attached underneath to the boat, and connected also with the banks. These boats admit a carriage, without the horses being unharnessed, and the largest is capable of conveying nearly two hundred passengers, and of carrying seven or eight tons' weight at a time. About the best views of Ben Loyal and Ben Hope are obtained in crossing the Moin, the castellated summit of the former coming laterally under the eye, while the great shelving precipice in which the rounded highest mass of Ben Hope terminates on the north-west, and to which the mountain rises in long successive stages, is displayed in its whole extent. More to the west, Foinnebhein and Benspionnadh, south of the head of Loch Duirness, uprear their extensive and varied heads and precipitous corries above the lower ranges which immediately encircle Loch Erriboll.

13. From the banks of the river Hope, which is crossed at its outlet from the lake, and in the descent to it, and again ascending the eminence forming the west bank of the river Hope, one of Nature's grandest scenes, lies displayed before us. The huge Ben Hope, which raises its shaggy head about 3000 feet above the level of the sea, stands full in view at the eastern head of the lake; in the intermediate space lies the wide unruffled expanse of lone Loch Hope, embossed amid long ascending slopes, and brightened perhaps by the "yellow radiance" of the setting sun to the appearance of one unbroken sheet of burnished gold.

"Nor fen nor sedge
Pollute the pure lake's crystal edge.
Abrupt and shear, the mountains sink
At once upon the level brink;

And just a trace of silver sand
Marks where the water meets the land;
For in the mirror, bright and blue,
Each hill's huge outline you may view.

. . . . . .

There's nothing left to fancy's guess,
You see that all is loveliness;
And silence adds, though these steep hills
Send to the lake a thousand rills,
In summer tide so soft they weep,
The sound but lulls the ear to sleep;
Your horse's hoof-tread sounds too rude,
So stilly is the solitude."

Leaving this scene, at a distance of about two miles, we reach the small rather out of the way inn of Heulim, on the banks of Loch Erriboll, in descending to which, and again ascending to Erriboll, the view is exceedingly fine.

Immediately below, encircled by mountains, lies the beautiful bay of Camusinduin, a sheltered indentation of Loch Erriboll (itself an arm of the North Sea, running about ten or twelve miles up the country), further protected by a rocky eminence connected with the shore by a gravelly peninsula, and celebrated among mariners as one of the finest and safest harbours in the kingdom, deserving, as much as its rival of Cromarty on the opposite coast, the appellation with which the ancients honoured the latter of "*Portus Salutus.*" Seldom, during the prevalence of a northerly wind, does this haven want the embellishment of numerous vessels riding safely at anchor, and with their different yawls gliding swiftly along in every direction, and many parties of sailors enjoying their rough sports on the beach, giving animation to a scene otherwise as sequestered as may be.

From Heulim, the road towards Rispond passes Erriboll, three miles and a half distant, and then proceeds along the shore of Loch Erriboll. On approaching the head of this inlet of the sea, the scenery becomes wild and imposing. Here stands the stupendous rock of Craignefielin, whose frowning front overhangs the road. A little farther on, the battlement-looking heights of the rocks of Strathbeg come into view in a southerly direction; whilst to the S. W. and W. are the hills of Foinnebhein, Cranstackie, Benspionnadh; and to N. W. and N. the range of hills called Beauntichinbeg, which terminates above Rispond, in the hill of Benaheaunnabein, forming altogether a mighty mountainous amphitheatre. This road affords many beautiful views, both of the loch and of the sur-

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rounding scenery; and brings us, at a distance of fifteen or sixteen miles from Heulim, to Rispond, at the western corner of the opening of Loch Erriboll, an extraordinary-looking place, worth turning aside for a few minutes to inspect. It is situated on a small creek, on all sides encompassed by one continued series of naked rocks, and is altogether an out-of-the-world sort of spot. Rispond is, however, well adapted for a fishing-station, being situated at the mouth of Loch Erriboll; and of its advantages in this respect, the intelligent gentleman who resides there for a time successfully availed himself. Now, unfortunately, it has been discontinued, and as there is no curing establishment on this part of the north coast, and as that at Loch Inver has also been abandoned, it is no object for vessels to come the way, and there being no demand, the energies of the fishing population are paralysed, and the treasures of the deep are to them comparatively as if they were not. The view from the summit of the highest rock, towards the sea, is very fine: in the distance the eye roams, without finding a resting-place, over the mighty waters of the great Northern Ocean, which, as they recede from the sight, seem to mingle with the horizon. Nearer at hand, several small islands, one of which (Island Hoan) is inhabited, with the numerous vessels that here spread their white wings to the swelling breeze, give variety to the prospect; whilst the high perpendicular cliff of Whiten Head, to the east, forms a prominent object among the many wonders of this "iron-bound coast."

Instead of making the circuit of the loch, the pedestrian tourist may cross at the ferry at Ardneachdie to Port Chamil. It is nearly two miles in width; but the boat and crew are good. The road to Rispond (half a mile) turns off to the right three miles and a half from the ferry, at Calleagag bridge.

14. Two and a half miles beyond Rispond, and one mile from the inn of Durin, is situated the creek and *Cave of Smoo*, or the *Uaigh Mhore*, a very remarkable natural excavation, of gigantic dimensions, formed in the face of the solid rock, which is composed of limestone. Its entrance and interior are of nearly uniform width, thus affording the broad light of day to its farthest extremity, which is aided by a circular opening at the top, after the fashion of a cupola, and called by the Gael "Na-falish," or the sun. It lies at the inner extremity of a long narrow inlet of the sea, and a little way up the course of a burn,

which, instead of falling over the face of the cliff, finds its way through another vertical opening, forming a remarkably fine waterfall, into an inner spacious compartment, which communicates with the outer cave. This last is perfectly dry. Behind the eastern side of the entrance is a massive spreading pillar, that supports the ponderous projection, and forms a small arch of five or six yards wide between itself and the interior wall. The vaulted roof of the cavern reverberates, with loud and repeated echo, the minutest sounds, and gives to the voice a fulness of intonation that increases its power many fold. Viewed from the inner extremity, the spacious archway, of a span wide for its height, and of the great vaulted roof, is exceedingly imposing. The height of the entrance is fifty-three feet, above which there is a space of twenty-seven feet of precipitous rock, making the total height of the rock in the centre eighty feet, but it rises higher as it advances. The depth of the cavern is 200 feet, and its width 110 feet. The roof projects about fifty feet beyond the pillar, and of this portion the centre has given way. On the west side is an opening of about twenty feet in height and eight feet in breadth, that leads to an interior cavern. The access to it is over a low ledge of rock which blocks up the lower part of the entrance, and before which there is a deep pool, formed by the water oozing from underneath the ledge. A partial and obscure view of the interior can be obtained by clambering up the rock, as the roof of this chamber is also perforated. But though the ledge can be reached with a little scrambling, the visitor ought not to content himself without a closer inspection, though the assistants make rather an unconscionable demand for their services, for which they ask fifteen shillings but take less—a rate of charge which the intelligent postmaster, who lives hard by, should see to have rectified. The further examination is achieved by having a boat placed in the outer pool, from which to step on the barrier. It is then lifted across with some little trouble—as the only boats at hand, and there are several generally on the beach of the little inlet, are larger than need be for the purpose of this exploration—and launched on the inner pool, which entirely fills this chamber. The boatmen supply candles to make the darkness visible. Embarked on this subterranean lake, we find ourselves beneath a vaulted roof, which rises high overhead. The opening mentioned from above is in the roof of a branch at the further end of the exca-

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vation, and gives admission to a cataract of water, formed by the burn alluded to, which comes foaming down from a height of rather more than eighty feet, on the face of the limestone rock. This is really a fine waterfall, apart from the peculiar circumstances of its position, and forms one of the most remarkable features of the whole. From midway of the wall of the gap through which it pours, another opening slants up to the surface, giving a further supply of light, and affording means of viewing from above the central portion of the cascade, which, by the way, is not discernible from the entrance to this second cavern.* The length of this interior apartment is seventy feet, its breadth thirty where narrowest, the pool seemingly of considerable depth.

There is yet a third cavern extending farther into the bowels of the earth, to which an entrance on the west side of the cataract we have just mentioned conducts. This entrance is formed by an opening nine or ten feet high, but bridged over by an arch of stone, which contracts the opening under which the boat has to be pushed, to a height barely sufficient to admit the passage of a small-sized boat. To effect this transit, it is necessary for the party in the boat to dispose themselves, as best they can, in a recumbent posture, else they run the risk of acquiring bumps upon their craniums not recognised in the nomenclature of phrenology. This inner apartment is a region of utter darkness: with the aid of candles or torches, however, we discover ourselves in a narrow cavern, which is for one-third of its length occupied with water. This cave gradually decreases from a height of forty to twelve feet, is about eight feet in breadth, and extends in length about 120 feet. Not far from the extremity of the cave is a deep pool, which stretches under the rock, and no doubt communicates underneath with the waters of the second cavern. Here terminates the exploratory adventure, and the visitors must retrace their way as they entered. In doing so, the outlook through the orifices to the increasing brightness is picturesque.

Having again emerged into the light of day, and ascending the rock, we discover the brook which forms the cascade in the second cavern; it dashes headlong down a rocky chasm, meeting as it descends several projecting shelves, which form minor falls ere it precipitates itself finally, with "the voice of many

* Dryas Octopetata will be found at the top of the slanting aperture.

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waters," into the gulf beneath. When this brook is flooded after heavy rains, the water nearly fills the aperture of the chasm, and if there happen to be a strong northerly wind, the spray is driven upwards, forming a fine natural *jet d'eau*.

The cave is immediately below the public road, the burn making its descent on the left hand, while the pathway down branches off on the right.

Reviewing the effect which the appearance of this magnificent cavern has upon the mind, we cease to wonder that the strange tales that hang by it find implicit believers among so many of the country people. Its solitude, its dark recesses, and deep gulfs, are well calculated to aid the suggestions of superstition, for which there is naturally an aptitude, if not a good foundation, in the mind of man: this cavern has been accordingly peopled with spirits embodied in all the forms, and endowed with all the attributes, that distinguish the multifarious genii of Highland mythology, the "dainty spirits" that knew "to swim, to dive into the earth, to ride on the curled clouds." But those spirits are now departed spirits: they have evanished before the meridian of our intellectual day, and have scarce left a "local habitation or a name" by which to be known, should they again revisit "the glimpses of the moon."

15. Leaving Smoo, the road lies through what, compared with the ground over which we have already passed, may be called a corn country, being more open and level, and having numerous fine fields; the district between the opening of Loch Erriboll and the lower portion of the Kyle of Duirness being a table-land of fine limestone.

Seven miles from the ferry of Heulim, we reach the excellent inn of Durin. Farout Head, the most northerly promontory on this part of the coast, stretches out for about three miles, forming a fine bay on either side. On the shores of the western bight—the bay of Duirness—stands the old house of Balnakiel, the chosen summer residence, in times of yore, of the Bishops of Sutherland and Caithness, and latterly of the Lords of Reay; and the small parish church of Duirness, an old structure, formerly a cell of the Augustine monastery at Dornoch, which was an offset of that at Beauly. The interior of this edifice is at present in a state of untidiness, quite discreditable for a place of worship to be. On the further side of a broad peninsula, which landlocks the upper part of the Kyle, Keoldale farm-

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house is pleasantly situated. All around Balnakiel and Keoldale are fine arable fields and the richest pasture land, and the promontory of Farout Head is, to a large extent, covered with luxuriant pasture to the summit of the lofty cliffs at the point. These, with Balnakiel, and the church and churchyard, are worthy of a four miles' walk from the inn. From the highest point of the headland, the lighthouse and terminal outlines of Cape Wrath meet the eye; in one direction Whitten Head, the lofty and precipitous termination of the east side of Loch Erriboll, forming a prominent object in the long line of coast in sight, as far as Strathy Point to the east; while the hill of Fashbein, near the cape, with Foinnebhein and Ben Spionnadh—lofty mountains south-west of the Kyle—with Ben Hope and Ben Loyal in the distance, to the south-east, form a fine mountain screen on one hand—the boundless ocean expanding all to the north of the coast on the other, with the Orkneys looming in the north-eastern horizon. The cliffs of Farout Head attain an elevation of 300 to 400 feet.* In the churchyard of Duirness lie the remains of that highly gifted son of song, already spoken of, Robert Calder, better known as Robert Donn, or Mackay, which latter surname, however, some maintain to be erroneous: a monument of neat design, and with appropriate inscriptions in Gaelic, English, Latin, and Greek, has lately been erected here to his memory by the admirers of his genius. This cemetery also contains some quaint inscriptions: one on a sculptured tombstone within the church, over the remains of a person distinguished in the local history of the district, as a noted freebooter, and by the appellative of Donald Mac-Mhorchie-ic-evin-mhoir, abbreviated Donald Mac-Corachie, and said to have been inscribed by himself, runs thus:—

"DONALD MACK, heir lyis lo;
vas ill to his frend and var to his fo, true to his maister
in veird and vo. 1623."

In August 1847, a vessel was wrecked on a Sunday morning on the high isolated rocks on the east side of Farout Head, when all hands perished.

About three quarters of a mile west of the church, near the sea, is the cave, as it is called, of Poul-a-ghloup, which is, properly speaking, only an immense gap or cavity in the earth, of great depth, and communicating by a long subterraneous pas-

* Scilla verna and Primuli Scotica occur in abundance on the most elevated eminence.

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sage with the sea, whose waves, as they roll, first into a long narrow seaward fissure in the limestone cliffs, which are here much and sharply indented, and then along the passage to its inmost extremity, resound with a terror-striking growl.

16. Cape Wrath—the Parph of ancient geography—distant eleven miles from Duirness Ferry, which is two and a-half miles from the inn, is a remarkably bold headland, forming the marked and angular north-west extremity of Great Britain; it is, consequently, one of the extreme points of our island, and on that account—like John-o'-Groat's or the Land's End—strangers desire to visit it. Cape Wrath, with its stupendous granitic front, its extensive and splendid ocean scenery, and the peculiarly wild character of the country by which it is approached, is invested with an interest which few promontories on the British coast can equal.

The greater part of the shore is here so very precipitous and steep, and many of the cliffs so overhanging, that it cannot with safety be viewed to advantage from the land, without great trouble and difficulty; so that, with favourable weather, the survey of this magnificent headland is generally attempted by sea; but the strong currents and high-swollen waves that at all times roll at the Cape, joined to the risk of one of those sudden storms or squalls that characterize this coast, frequently deter persons unaccustomed to boating from making the attempt. There is no boat to be had nearer than Duirness, and the demand for one is 30s. The outermost point of the rock consists of a granitic gneiss, waved in structure, and greatly contorted by the intrusion of granite veins.

Proceeding by land, we cross the Duirness Ferry. This road, from one of the ascents of which the views of Foinnebhein and Spionnadh are particularly fine, does not keep by the coast, but winds through a high moorland country, the lofty mountain of Fashbein being on the left hand, and Skrisbein on the right, for about four or five miles, when a valley leading down to Kerwick affords a view of the sea and of the very singular pinnacle of Stacko-Chlo. This is a high pillar, rising probably to the height of 200 feet out of the sea, but so far below the height of the neighbouring cliffs, as to be remarkable only from its detached position, and the regularity of the old red sandstone strata of which it is composed. From this valley the road takes several wide curves, and, when within two miles

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of the lighthouse, branches off to a small boat harbour in the deep and rocky bay of Clash Carnoch; then, winding up a steep hill, we suddenly, but not until within a few hundred yards of the buildings, come in sight of the lighthouse, which, with its regular outer walls and turreted buildings, resembles a small fortification. On a near approach, the perfect order and cleanliness that pervade the whole establishment are experienced as quite delightful and refreshing; the stones used are all of the durable and beautiful granite, dug with much trouble out of Clash Carnoch; but so difficult of access and remote was the situation, that the expense of procuring the other materials was very great, and it is understood that the whole original expense was nearly £14,000 sterling. The view obtained from the top of the tower more than repays the trouble of the journey from Duirness. To the south-west, the distant Butt of Lewis is seen in clear weather, while the wide expanse of ocean that rolls in the same direction against the rocky shores at the mouth of Loch Inchard, or on the sandy bay of Sandwood, is, from this elevation, accompanied with an idea of magnitude and vastness unknown at other points of the coast. To the east, again, the tall Hoyhead of Orkney, and, in fine weather, even the island of North Rona, at a distance of fifty miles, is distinctly visible, and also a long range of bluff, iron-bound coast, on the mainland, as far as Strathy Head. Several small rocky islands start up at different points, of which Balque,

"An island salt and bare,
The haunt of seals and auks, and sea-mews' clang,"

is the largest. It lies at some distance from the shore, and appears a lumpish mass on the breast of Ocean. Nearer the shore is the pinnacle of Buachil (or the Herd), of considerable altitude, and which, having a wide base and sharp point, might at this distance be mistaken for a large ship under full sail. Immediately out from the cape are several sunken rocks, over which the sea foams and rages in the mildest weather with appalling fury. A reef of perforated rocks, which juts out into the sea, is very striking. The highest precipice is not less than 600 feet, and, in one place, a steep declivity of red granite, remarkably imposing, terminates in a precipice of great height. But the wonders and magnificent front of the cliffs in this quarter can only be seen in their true character from the sea. From that direction, abrupt and threatening precipices, vast

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and huge fissures, caverns, and subterranean openings, alternately appear in the utmost confusion, while the deep-sounding rush of the mighty waters, agitated by the tides among their resounding openings, the screams and never-ceasing flight of innumerable sea-fowl, and often the spoutings of a stray whale in his unwieldy gambols in the ocean, form altogether a scene which none who has witnessed it can ever forget.

ROUTE FOURTH.—BRANCH E.

FROM BONAR BRIDGE TO LOCH INVER OF ASSYNT, AND FROM ASSYNT TO DUIRNESS.

Sutherlandshire Roads, 1.—Strath Oikel; Rosehall; Cassley River and Waterfall; Castle-na-Coir, 2.—Burial Ground; Clan Conflict at Tutumtarvach; Bridge of Oikel; Cascades; Oikel Bridge to Ullapool; Glen Enic; Loch Damph; Achall, foot-note, 3.—Luberoy; Conical Mountains; Leeches; Loch Boarlan; Boundary of Ross and Sutherland; Ledbeg Marble Quarries, 4.—Glen of Assynt; Loch Awe; Clearness of Water in Assynt; Stronchrubie; Limestone rock, 5.—General features of the country, 6.—Loch Assynt; Ardvrock Castle; Defeat and Capture of Montrose, 7.—Achumore Spring; Bull Trout; Cunaig, 8.—Loch Assynt; River Inver, 9.—Loch Inver; Sulbhein (Sulvein), 10.—Western Coast of Sutherland; Loch Inver to Storr; Olney and Kyle Skou, 11.—Loch Assynt to Kyle Skou; Storehouse; Herring Fishery, 12.—Peculiarity in Walls of Round Tower; Glen Dhu and Glen Coul, foot-note; Eddrachillis Parish; Small Lakes; Badcaul; Scourie, 13.—Handa, 14.—Condition of the Peasantry; Reay Deer Forest; General Hugh Mackay, 15.—Loch Laxford and River: Inchard Loch and River; Achrisgill River; The Gualin; Bay of Duirness, 16.

	Miles.	
Bonar to Shin Bridge	5	
Cassley Bridge	8	
Bridge of Oikel	7	
Aultnanghalagach Burn	10	
Innisindamff	8	
Loch Inver.....(14).....		52
Kyle Skou	12	
Scourie	11	
Laxford Bridge	7	
Rhiconich Inn	5	
Duirness	14	
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1. From Bonar Bridge, a road proceeds, in a north-west direction, to Loch Inver, in Assynt, which leads through Strath Oikel, the boundary between the shires of Ross and Sutherland, and through the glen of Assynt, which is occupied for a space of ten miles by the waters of Loch Assynt, besides which there

are one or two other small lakes on the way. From Loch Assynt, and about twelve miles from Loch Inver, a road strikes northward to Kyle Skou, a narrow arm of the sea, which is crossed by a ferry, from which the road is continued through the peculiarly rugged district of Eddrachillis to Scourie, on the west coast, whence it conducts by the head of Lochs Laxford and Inchard, two other salt-water lochs, to the Kyle of Duirness, an inlet indenting the north coast, and here it joins the line of road from Tongue. The Eddrachillis road has been but a few years finished: it completes the communication round Sutherlandshire, and invites attention to an expanse of scenery singularly wild and grand, and to districts comparatively untrodden by the foot of the stranger. As already mentioned, too, one can be conveyed from Golspie, on the south-east of the county, to the west coast at Loch Inver (and also to Scourie), or the north at Tongue, in ten or twelve hours by the mail-gig—(see page 401). Having traversed the distance between these points, he can, by the like conveyance, regain the east coast in the course of a few days, or, finding his way between Scourie and Tongue on foot, or by the conveyances, such as spring or dog-carts, to be had, one at least of either, at each stage, make the whole circuit.

2. Having crossed Shin Bridge, five miles from Bonar, the road towards Assynt runs due west, through the beautiful valley, anciently part of the district known by the name of Ferrinbusklyne, and thereafter of Sleischillis, and which was gifted by the Earls of Sutherland, in the twelfth century, to the Bishop of Caithness. The united waters of the Cassley and Oikel (which effect a junction eight miles up the valley), swelled with many a tributary mountain torrent, become here a fine large river, and form the well-marked boundary between the counties of Sutherland and Ross. The valley on the Ross side is beautified by several clumps of natural copsewood, whilst, on the Sutherland side, the townships of Inveran, Linsidemore, and Linsidebeg, display a number of snug-looking stone cottages, picturesquely situated on rocky eminences, and commanding a view of the extensive meadows that skirt the river on either side. Three miles above Shin Bridge, the road winds at the foot of the craggy barrier that bounds the valley on the right, having a low wooded swamp on the left; and this character is retained for some miles, until we reach the enclosures of Rose-

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hall.* To this point the tide flows, being a distance from Bonar of twelve miles. The road here recedes from the banks of the river, and, ascending the rising ground on the right, crosses a very handsome bridge over a deep rocky dell, of the most picturesque character. The property of Rosehall, now belonging to Mr. James Matheson, used to be distinguished by the extent of its plantations, chiefly of firs, and by the lofty protecting walls with which the late Lord Ashburton invested them. Great part of the wood has been cut down; still there are extensive plantations and woods to the fore. Since Mr. Matheson became proprietor, the condition of the crofters and small tenants on this property has been much improved, and now rendered self-supporting. At this place has been discovered a vein of manganese, in the state of black oxide.†

A short distance beyond the avenue leading to Rosehall House, and after passing a missionary chapel on the right, we reach the river Cassley—provided we pass unhurt the very steep descent of this part of the road. This river is an excellent angling stream; and, nearly a mile above the bridge, we come to a remarkable waterfall, forming a salmon leap, such as that upon the Shin already described, but of greater altitude, and consequently of more difficult and rare achievement. From the Bridge of Cassley the road sweeps again to the southward, towards the river Oikel (which here unites with the Cassley), affording a fine view of the front elevation of Rosehall House, encircled with its luxuriant plantations—

> "A stately progeny of pines,
> With all their floating foliage richly robed."

From this point, too, are seen the old walls of Castle-na-Coir, situated on a low flat meadow on the Sutherland side of the Oikel. The road then again takes a westerly direction up the valley, keeping chiefly along and close to the banks of the river. The lofty hill on the right is clothed with full-grown firs to its summit, and contributes, with the natural birch and alder trees that stud the low ground, to give a pleasing woodland character to the otherwise marked Highland features of

* From Shin Bridge on towards Rosehall, the road-side is adorned with *Pinguicula lusitanica* and *Drosera anglica* in great profusion; and in the "low wooded swamp" are found *Malaxis paludosa*, *Pilularia globulifera*, and *Nymphæa alba*.

† The wilds of Sutherland contain many rare species of insects, some of them not elsewhere found in Britain; and some uncommon species of fish, denizens chiefly of the fresh-water lakes. Three miles east of Rosehall, and close by the road-side, Dr. Greville found the very rare plant *Ribes petræum*.

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the strath. The river, too, with the many graceful windings formed in its rapid course, adds its own share of beauty to the scene, being seen to much advantage from the elevated bank along which the road passes for some miles. Continued fine level meadow ground, of considerable extent, lines the firth and river for several miles above, as below Invercastle. The hills are somewhat higher than at Invershin; the strath wide and open.

3. Three miles from Cassley Bridge, and opposite to the township of Brae, on the Ross side of the river, we reach Tutumtarvach, with its headlong burn; a little to the east of which, there is a sequestered unenclosed burial-ground, picturesquely situated on an elevated bank—a verdant sunny spot—but withal sad and melancholy; its lonely site, its gray flat stones, the humble chronicles of this hamlet of the dead, and its nameless graves, roofed with the green sod, all combine in increasing the natural solemnising influence of such a scene. After leaving it, the road ascends abruptly a reach of broad heathy heights occupying the middle of the valley, where a desperate and bloody conflict was fought, about the beginning of the fifteenth century, between a party of Macleods from the island of Lewis (who had made a foray on the mainland, and driven off a number of cattle) and a body of Sutherland men; and from the heavy slaughter on this occasion, the place is said to have derived its name of Tutumtarvach, significant of the natives of the district having had great advantage from it. In this conflict a touching incident occurred similar to that in the Fair Maid of Perth, where is recorded the devoted sacrifice by the brave old Torquil, in the noted contest on the North Inch, of his various sons to save his foster-son Hector. Seven brothers on this occasion fell beneath the sword of a redoubted champion of the invading force. But here it was the voice of a mother that shouted once and again—"Another to stand against Kenneth!" Attaining the top of the rising ground, the former features and scenery of the valley undergo a change; the hills appear more barren and rugged; deep glens are seen opening inland at a distance; and the country is now all clad in brown heath, intermixed with deers'-hair moss (*Pleocharis cæspitosa*), relieved only by occasional clumps of stunted birch, and a few green meadows along the course of the river, which character it retains until we reach the Bridge of Oikel (distant

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seven miles from Cassley), without anything worthy of notice, if we except the remarkably rocky water-course of the stream of Baderguiny, which is crossed by a high single-arched bridge, about half way between Tutum and Oikel.* A new inn has been built at Oikel Bridge, but not on the Duke's property, nor in Sutherlandshire, and not at all equal to the Sutherlandshire inns, but it has good stabling. Some hundred yards above the inn is a linn or waterfall, presenting a continued series of cataracts tumbling over a particularly rugged channel, which terminate in one greater and very formidable-looking fall.

"Moor'd in the rifted rocks,"

that form the precipitous banks of the river at this point, are several full-sized fir-trees, having their roots fixed, or rather twisted, in the most singular manner in the crevices, and where no soil whatever can be discovered.† On the brink of the north bank of this river, just over the fall, is a small turf-cot. During the salmon-fishing season it is tenanted by a short athletic Highlander, who sits all day long at the door, with his feet hanging over the bank, watching the fall most intently. The traveller may do so likewise, and see the fish leap over. This is no sooner accomplished, than the Highlander has his bag-net in the "pot," immediately above the fall, and he almost invariably succeeds in bringing out the fish.

Beyond this spot the tourist should, in the hot season, make use of his thin veil, with which he ought to be provided, to protect himself from the attacks of the myriads of mosquitoes, or midges, which infest the central and western coasts of Sutherland more than any other county in Britain. Accustomed as the natives are to their annoying bites, their patience is often sorely tried by them; and to strangers the pain inflicted by these little creatures is at first quite excruciating.‡

* On the mossy height to the left, before descending to the Bridge of Oikel, grows *Eriophorum pubescens.*

† Among these trees the *Hieracium denticulatum* occurs in great luxuriance, sometimes upwards of four feet high.

‡ A rough district road conducts from Oikel Bridge to Ullapool on Loch Broom, a distance of twenty-one miles, through a very beautiful tract of country. It first passes through Glen Enic, a wide shelving glen, rising at once from the rocky channel of the river in swelling slopes, wooded with small birch, and which undulate away to the higher acclivities. The hills are of elongated outline, and covered with fine pasture and short heath, and the glen forms a fine piece of scenery, wide, wooded, and secluded. As we advance, some of the singularly outlined mountain groups of the west coast attract admiring notice. About four miles from Oikel Bridge, the glen forks into two—southerly and westerly. The way to Ullapool lies along the westerly

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4. Leaving Oikel Bridge, the traveller shortly afterwards passes through a small township, where some huts, and a few patches of arable land, help to diversify the monotonous appearance of the heath-clad hills. Here, if the weather be clear, the first sight is obtained of the lofty mountain of Cannishb, in Assynt, which may be distinguished by its singularly sharp conical shape. About two miles from Oikel Bridge is the farmhouse of Lubcroy, pleasantly situated on a green holm where the river Conchar flows into the Oikel; opposite to which, on the Sutherland side, is a steep lofty hill, finely wooded to its summit. From Lubcroy, the road proceeds with a gradual ascent along the side of a wide-stretched hill for three miles, from which the valley on the right is seen for a considerable way, backed in the distance by the rugged tops of Ben More of Assynt, the highest mountain in this part of the country, and in the distance by the summit of Ben Liod in Duchily. On

opening. The distance, for half a dozen of miles from the inn, may be shortened by keeping the north instead of the south side of Glen Enic, along which latter the road is carried. Loch Damph, about half-way to Ullapool, is a peculiarly and softly beautiful and pleasing sheet of pellucid, green-margined water, about three miles long, and half a mile broad, lined by unbroken hills of nearly level outline, about 1000 feet high; likewise carpeted with a rich heathy pasture, the lower half of those on the south side well covered with masses of birch. The water flows in opposite directions from the ends of Loch Damph. Ascending from the shores, we soon attain the summit level, and then descend somewhat rapidly the shelving valley, through which the Achall river first holds its way, and cannot fail to be struck with the beauty of the glen, as it comes suddenly in view—the clear alder-studded stream, seen beyond the wooded declivities which stretch down on either hand, winding away before us through fine meadow land, and the plain beyond between the circling heights, occupied by birch woods. On the meadow ground below, the Marquis of Stafford, now proprietor in right of the Marchioness, has a shooting-lodge, his deer forest extending from the east end of Loch Damph for some miles below the lodge. On the north side here, a long mural frontlet of dark-gray limestone, about 300 feet high, crowning the acclivity, gives a peculiar character to the scenery. Loch Achall, a singularly sweet piece of water, next attracts our admiration. It is about three miles below the lodge, is about two and a half miles in length, and swells out to rather better than a mile in width, and succeeds a fine meadow dotted with alders. Continuous green hills, with gray protruding rocky spaces interspersed, and of elongated outline, skirt the water. At the lower end, successive circling and somewhat raggedly outlined heights subside and converge almost to the water line; but beyond a long unequally tabular mountain, with very abrupt terminations, one of the strongly-featured range, on the west side of Loch Broom, hems in the landscape. A wooded promontory projects from one side into the lake. Under some aspects, especially as we have seen it of a summer evening, a scene more sweet cannot be looked upon than Loch Achall. About three miles further, above the deep channel which the river has worked through the bright emerald-tinted limestone rocks, we descend to the considerable village of Ullapool, beautifully situated on an alluvial promontory about half a mile square, at the base of high abrupt hills, which closely flank the lengthened waters of Loch Broom. Mr. Matheson, now superior of Ullapool, has formed two miles of new road towards Oikel, and we trust the Marquis of Stafford will complete the line of communication. We believe the obstacle to be apprehension of disturbing the deer, on which point, the effect of a road-way, instead of a number of hill-tracks there is a difference of opinion. The inn at Ullapool has partaken of the improvements in progress on the roads.

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gaining the summit of the rising ground, a stranger is particularly struck with the sudden and singular appearance of several lofty conical-shaped mountains to the west, which, perfectly detached from each other, start up from the elevated table-land on which they rest, sheer and steep from their base—

"Catching the clouds of heaven."

The largest and farthest south of these strange-looking mountains is Coulmore in Coigach: the centre one, with its forked head and hanging side, is Sulbhein, or "The Sugarloaf;" and the most northern is Cannishb, already mentioned. When seen from the slopes adjoining the Ross-shire hills, these mountains have a particularly grand appearance, no less than seven conical peaks being, in some instances, visible at the same time. Here we pass for several miles over a great expanse of elevated moorland.* The country merely presents one uninteresting surface of deers'-hair moss and heathery pasture, the uncommon appearance and shapes of the distant mountains being the only interesting objects. Two small lochs, Craggy and Loch-na-helac, are found on the moorland waste. The former is noted for its leeches, the latter as a resort of the wild swan. Ten miles from Bridge of Oikel we reach a long lake, with low and uninteresting banks, called Loch Boarlan, into which flows the rivulet of Aultnaghalagach, the boundary between Ross and Sutherland in this quarter: so that, arrived on the west side of this burn we are again in the county of Sutherland, and in the parish of Assynt. The name of Aultnaghalagach signifies "burn of deceivers," and arose from witnesses, in determining the boundary between Assynt and Kincardine, encroaching considerably on the Assynt side, and making oath they stood on Ross-shire ground, having earth from Balnagown in their shoes! Out of Lake Boarlan, to the west, runs a small river, along which the road passes, having steep hills to the right, the sides of which are furrowed into many a deep chasm by the winter torrents; and these, when flooded, are very picturesque. The road, after passing the small farm-house of Ledmore on the left, winds towards the north, and while it and the surface of the ground appear to decline to that direction, the river of Ledbeg, on the left hand, is seen flowing to the south, and, to a stranger, presents the anomalous appearance of forcing its way against the ascent of the

* A little farther on, the road passes over a bridge; and on the moor, to the left of the road, between these lochs and the bridge, *Carex uniflora* occurs in great abundance.

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country. At Ledmore a road branches off south-west to Cnockan, the extreme boundary of Assynt towards Loch Broom, which has now been continued to Ullapool, sixteen miles distant. Farther on, we pass the farm-house of Ledbeg on the left. Here are inexhaustible quarries of beautiful marble, one perfectly white and pure as alabaster, another of a variegated colour, veined gray, blue, and red, and capable of receiving the finest polish. These were worked, some years ago, by a Mr. Jopling from Newcastle; but, owing principally to the disadvantages arising from the want of roads fit for the conveyance to the coast of the weighty blocks, the speculation did not succeed; and, although this chief obstacle has now been removed, no attempt has been made to renew the undertaking.

5. After leaving Ledbeg, the road, still going northward, proceeds along the sloping side of a wide and great valley, called the Glen of Assynt, formed among large rounded mountains; Cannishb, on the left hand, towering high above all others. The tops of these mountains, from being thickly studded with white-bleached stones and portions of protruding rock, appear as if covered with a sprinkling of snow or hoar-frost, and thus create a chill feeling even in the hottest period of summer. About three miles farther down this valley, in which Loch Awe, a long narrow lake, with several small islets, ornamented with natural wood, is the only object to diversify the scene, we come in sight of the upper or east end of Loch Assynt; and, still farther on, arrive at the farm of Stronchrubie. The road is often intersected with watercourses and small rivulets, that tumble noisily down the steep sides of the hills, forming many small cataracts. The water is of the purest quality, cold as ice in the hottest weather, and beautifully clear, displaying its pebbly or marble bed, blanched by its action into Parian whiteness. The greater part of these streams, many of which are of sufficient body to turn the largest mill wheel, proceed from a single spring; the springs of Assynt being proverbial for their extraordinary size, and the delightful quality of the water. After leaving the farm-house of Stronchrubie, the road passes into the lowest part of the valley; and on the right hand a splendid range of the limestone rock presents itself to view, and nearly facing the east end of Loch Assynt. It is here composed entirely of blue limestone, with only occasional thin strata of foreign matters: its height is about three hundred feet, rising in successive steps, the top

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part forming a perpendicular cliff of great beauty, close and thick ivy being seen ornamenting its front in several places, with here and there a bush of the broad-leaved or Wych elm (*Ulmus montana*), and a stunted stick of the white beam tree (*Pyrus-aria*). About a hundred feet above the base issue three springs of excellent water. Below the precipice, it may be mentioned, the *Dryas octopetala* covers large patches of the hill slope. The road proceeds along the foot of this range for upwards of a mile, when we arrive at the inn of Innisindamff, distant eight miles from Aultnaghalagach. Here also are the parish church of Assynt, a small lonely building, and the manse, beautifully situated on a moderately rising ground, and commanding one of the finest views in this part of the country. The highest limb of Ben More is seen towering in great majesty through a craggy glen to the east, and surrounded on all sides by very imposing mountains: to the west is the beautiful expanse of Loch Assynt, having the singular mountain of Cunaig on the north; and the solid mass called Bengarrow, with the summit of Camisve, or Camisbhe, rising high above on the south.

6. The whole district of country through which we have conducted the reader from Lairg, is one vast succession of sheep walks, unbroken by almost a single human habitation. Several of the Sutherlandshire tenants farm to the extent of 20,000 to 30,000 sheep. The general surface of the hill ground, leaving out of account the more lofty mountains, is smooth—covered for the most part with a deep stratum of peat, clothed with heath and moss—the low grounds, however, and occasional spaces on the hill face, bearing a luxuriant vegetation—that is, of pasture, for of tree or shrub there is hardly a specimen till we reach Loch Inver, where there is some extent of young plantation. The inclination of the lower hills is gentle, and their sides far reaching, and the glens or straths wide spreading. There are few individually picturesque features. It is the prevailing sense of almost utter solitude, and of pathless space, impressing itself on, and colouring the thoughts, that forms the peculiar characteristic of the central wilds of Sutherlandshire.

There is a good inn at Innisindamff at the head of Loch Assynt.

7. The road passes along the north shore of Loch Assynt, which at every turn presents some new feature in the landscape.

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The lake, like most of the Sutherlandshire lochs, abounds in fine trout; and no obstruction is offered in most of them to the angler; but now several of the river fishings are rented by the innkeepers and others, who charge pretty high for the privilege of salmon fishing. About a mile and a half from the inn, is the shell of a large double or twin house, built by the Mackenzies, Lairds of Assynt, about the beginning of last century. This place is called Eddrachalda. Some hundred yards farther on are seen the ruins of Ardvrock Castle, beautifully situated on a peninsula jutting out into the lake. It is supposed to have been built prior to the sixteenth century, and was long the residence, the "bannered place," of the Macleods, who possessed Assynt before the Mackenzies, until the latter obtained a footing in the district, at the close of the seventeenth century, after several intrigues and attempts to storm the castle. This castle was three storeys high (the lowest being vaulted), with one circular tower, and is noted as having been the place of confinement of the celebrated Marquis of Montrose, when taken prisoner by the Laird of Assynt, in 1650. It was also the scene of "many a wassail wild, and deed of blood," commemorated by song and story; but now—

> "No more its arches echo to the noise
> Of joy and festive mirth. No more the glance
> Of blazing taper through its windows beams,
> And quivers on the undulating wave.
> But naked stand the melancholy walls,
> Lash'd by the wintry tempests, cold and bleak,
> That whistle mournful through the empty halls,
> And piecemeal crumble down the towers to dust."

It was in great part destroyed, in 1795, by lightning. Montrose, in prosecution of his adventurous enterprise in behalf of Charles II., as calamitous as his expedition for his father had been brilliant, had sent 1200 foreign troops before him to the Orkneys, of whom no less than 1000 perished by shipwreck. The remainder he joined with 500 more, to whom he succeeded in adding 800 Orcadians; and with his little army of 1500 men he landed in Caithness, near John-o-Groat's. He had calculated on collecting a considerable force in this county, but completely failed; succeeding, however, in securing the passes of the Ord, leading into Sutherland, and possessing himself of the Castle of Dunbeath. The Earl of Sutherland retired before him as he advanced, and Montrose reached Strath Oikel, with but a force of only 1200 men. The Earl was met at Tain by the Rosses and

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Munroes, and by Colonel Strachan, who had hurried forward with a party of horse, while General Leslie was pressing on with 3000 foot. It was resolved that the Earl should cross into Sutherland to intercept Montrose's retreat to the north, while Strachan advanced with 230 horse and 170 foot in search of him. Under cover of some broom, they succeeded in surprising him at disadvantage, on level ground, near Fearn, on the 27th April 1650, having diverted his attention by the display of merely a small body of horse. He immediately endeavoured, in vain, to reach a rugged hill with his infantry; but they were overtaken, and almost to a man slain or taken prisoners, their commander and a few gentlemen escaping on horseback. They directed their flight up Strath Oikel, and, Montrose, betaking himself to the disguise of a peasant, and dismounting, in company of an officer of the name of Sinclair, toiled his heartless and aimless way on foot through these wilds, for nearly a couple of days and nights, and was reduced to such extremity as to be fain to eat his very gloves. The Laird of Assynt, being apprised that the fugitive was suspected of having bent his steps in the direction of his country, and a reward being held out for his capture, had a search made, and soon succeeded in having him securely lodged in his castle of Assynt, though, before this reverse of fortune, he had been on the eve of joining his standard. Local tradition says that the recompense which the laird obtained for this exploit was the mighty one of forty bolls of oatmeal!

8. At this place a noisy stream tumbles down the rocky side of the hill into the lake, and issues from a single spring at Achumore, which is seen on the high ground. This spring constantly discharges a current of four cubic feet of the purest water. Still proceeding downward, we pass close to the southern rugged base of the mountain Cunaig, and here the limestone of the upper part of the lake terminates, and to the west shapeless masses of gneiss predominate. In Loch Assynt, and in some of the small lochs which discharge their waters into it, bull trout (*Salmo Hucho*)* of the finest flavour, and of a large

* We have been since informed that the trout here caught are not the real *Bull trout*, but *Salmo Eriox*, or "Grey." The larger specimens have large, really fierce-looking heads, with formidable rows of sharp teeth. They are sometimes met with as large as twenty pounds. The head is disproportionately large. *Lusula arcuata* is found on Ben More of Assynt, being one of only three stations where it occurs in Britain. The other two *habitats* are Foinnebhein in Duirness, and the summit of the mountains at the source of the Dee.

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size, are caught. A small rivulet, which, about a mile from Innisindamff, joins another running into the loch from the east, a quarter of a mile before joining the main stream in the glen, disappears, flowing into a cave in the limestone; but it can be traced by its rumbling noise for some hundred yards, until it appears again on the surface, a little before it joins the larger burn. In the course of its subterranean journey, the roof of its tunnel has fallen in in two or three places, where the water is visible. In one of these openings grows the beautiful *Scolopendrium vulgare*, and in the neighbourhood (on the east shoulder of Cunaig) we also find the delicate Scottish filmy fern, *Hymenophyllum Wilsonii*. A road here strikes off to the north, being the commencement of the important line of road to the Kyle Skou of Assynt, and thence, through Eddrachillis, to the North Sea. The road to Loch Inver still follows the north shore of the loch, near the end of which is passed a picturesque little loch on the right, close to Loch Assynt; and at this point the steep and lengthened west side of Cunaig appears strikingly to view, its summit singularly broken and serrated, and spiring into all the forms of alpine wildness.

9. Loch Assynt is a remarkably fine sheet of water. It is distinguished by a considerable diversity of character between the upper and lower portions, the former being lined by lofty and rugged mountains, and terminated, at the head, by the noble limestone frontlet of Strone Chrubie; while, at the other end, the bounding hills decline in height—rough and rocky, but here and there partially wooded with dwarf birch. Numerous short rocky points project from the shore, and the loch is further marked by a bend towards the lower end, at right angles to the main body. The road keeps close alongside the water, and immediately ushers us into the midst of a maze of rocky gneiss hillocks, through which the river Inver threads its way, of varying breadth of channel, the road following its banks; and, after a course of from four to five miles, it discharges its waters at the head of Loch Inver, a land-locked inlet of the Atlantic, encircled by the like description of rugged gneiss hills.

10. The village of Loch Inver consists of only a few scattered houses and cottages, but it possesses the advantage of having one of the best inns in the county. Mr. Dunbar, the landlord, is well known as a zealous naturalist, sportsman, and

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angler. His collection of stuffed animals, particularly birds, is indeed most valuable and interesting, more especially as containing specimens of all the different varieties of eagles, hawks, owls, and other birds of prey found in Sutherlandshire. The eagle is to be found in greater abundance in Sutherland than elsewhere. Some keepers have killed as many as forty in a season. Eagles' eggs fetch as high as fifteen shillings a-piece. A boat-car is kept at Loch Inver for loch-fishing, and a dog-cart is also to be had at the inn. Loch Inver is pleasantly situated at the head of the loch, at the foot of a zone of craggy hills, and during the herring-fishing season it is the resort of a great number of those adventurers, from all parts, who obtain their bread upon "the waters." There is likewise a good salmon-fishery here. A pier of some size has been built by Donald Macdonald, Esq., sometime of Culaig, who erected houses sufficient to cure 800 barrels of herrings at a time, and who also used to carry on here extensively the preparation of preserved meat, fish, and vegetables; but this establishment is now discontinued, and the buildings have been converted into a residence for the Duke of Sutherland when he may visit this part of his estates.

The extent and majesty of the mountain screens about Loch Inver, the conical detached forms of some of the hills, and the boundless reach from the adjoining heights, of "the dark and deep blue ocean," streaked only in one or two directions by the dim chains of Skye and the Long Island, bestow on this village a most peculiar interest. Even Dr. Macculloch himself seemed at a loss how to describe the scene. Yet, in his own most graphic style, he has thus sketched some of its bolder features:—"Round about there are four mountains, which seem as if they had tumbled down from the clouds; having nothing to do with the country or each other, either in shape, materials, position, or character, and which look very much as if they were wondering how they got there. Which of them all is the most rocky and useless, is probably known to the sheep; human organs distinguish little but stone; black precipices, when the storm and rain are drifting by, and, when the sun shines, cold bright summits that seem to rival the snow. Suil Veinn loses no part of its strangely incongruous character on a near approach. It remains as lofty, as independent, and as much like a sugar-loaf, (really, not metaphorically,) when at its foot

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as when far off at sea. In one respect it gains; or rather the spectator does, by a more intimate acquaintance. It might have been covered with grass to the imagination; but the eye sees, and the hand feels, that it is rock, above, below, and round about. The narrow front, that which possesses the conical outline, has the air of a precipice, although not rigidly so; since it consists of a series of rocky cliffs piled in terraced succession above each other; the grassy surfaces of which, being invisible from beneath, the whole seems one rude and broken cliff, rising suddenly and abruptly, from the irregular table-land below, to the height of 1000 feet. The effect of a mountain thus seen is always striking; because, towering aloft into the sky, it fills the eye and the imagination. Here it is doubly impressive, from the wide and open range around, in the midst of which this gigantic mass stands alone and unrivalled; a solitary and enormous beacon, rising to the clouds from the far-extended ocean-like waste of rocks and rudeness. The conical appearance of Suil Veinn vanishes on a side view. Thus seen, it displays a prolonged ridge with an irregular summit, but the sides all around are precipitous, like the western extremity; and at the east end, it terminates in a similar manner, looking wide over an open rocky country, and thus preserving its independence in every part. The lateral outline is varied and graceful; the whole mountain in every direction, presenting an object no less picturesque than it is uncommon and striking in effect: combining, in some positions, with the distant and elegant forms of Canasp, Coul Beg, and Ben More (3230 feet high), it also offers more variety than would be expected; while even the general landscape is varied by the multiplicity of rocks and small lakes with which the whole country is interspersed. The total altitude from the sea-line is probably about 2500 feet; the table-land whence this and most other of the mountains of this coast rise, appearing to have an extreme elevation of 1500 feet. To almost all but the shepherds, Suil Veinn is inaccessible: one of our sailors, well used to climbing, reached the summit with difficulty, and had much more in descending. Sheep scramble about it in search of the grass that grows in the intervals of the rocks; but so perilous is this trade to them, that this mountain, with its pasture, which, notwithstanding its rocky aspect, is considerable, is a negative possession, causing a deduction of fifteen or

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twenty pounds a-year from the value of the farm to which it belongs, instead of adding to its rent."

To aid the reader's ideas, we must observe that these mountain-tops are some miles inland, and that between them and the spectator extends that agglomeration of gneiss eminences which we have mentioned. Suil Veinn is quite unique among the mountains of Scotland; the cone rises quite by itself, nearly 2000 feet, we should say, instead of 1000, according to the foregoing extract, above the rugged table-land of gneiss hills, which may rise about 800 or 1000 feet above the sea-level. One of the best points of view is about a mile from the inn, on a road, leading up from the loch, a little south of the inn. Here a limb of the mountain, on the east, shews as a wart-like excrescence on the acclivity. But the tourist ought not to omit to take boat out for a mile or more. Thence a whole series of huge mountain masses, of the most varied shape and outline, are seen at different points rising from the rugged table-land, as Cunaig, Ben More of Assynt (in the distance), Canishp, and Suil Veinn (forming the central points), Coul More, Coul Beg, Stack Pollie, Ben Ione, Ben More of Coigach (in the distance), all ranging about 3000 to 3500 feet, or more, above the sea. From the water, Suil Veinn looks first like a huge glass-house, and as one gets out more from the land, it assumes more of the "sugar-loaf" aspect. The tourist will also be repaid by a walk of five miles along the road leading from Loch-Inver House to the Fall of Kirkaig, on the river of that name—a stream of considerable volume, the boundary, on this side, between Ross and Sutherland shires.

FROM ASSYNT TO DUIRNESS.

11. Instead of retracing his steps, and crossing from near Innisindamff, by the east shoulder of Cunaig, to Kyle Skou, on his way further north, the traveller may vary the route by proceeding to Stoir and Oldney, fourteen miles from Loch Inver, to which a branch road has been made, and there taking boat for the Kyle. The road winds at first rapidly up and down, and among gneiss hillocks deeply divided, and containing in their bowl-shaped hollows several small tarns covered with water-lilies, and from the elevations commanding views of Suil Veinn and Canishp to their very base. The former here presents

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two distinct summits, the lowest reaching about three-fourths of the height of the principal mass, with which it connects by a narrow ligature—the whole, perhaps, having as much the appearance of a helmet as any other object which can be instanced. About six miles from Loch Inver we reach the township of Stoir, a group of fishermen's huts upon a spot of sandy downs. Ascending the further hill face, we pass the Church and manse, and shortly after the Free Church and manse of Stoir. Here the whole summits, Canishp, Suil Veinn, Coul More, and Coul Beg, with numerous successive ranges, come under the eye—the Corgach and Loch Broom mountains, with those of Skye beyond, while the Lewis is seen stretching seaward. Some three miles further, another considerable collection of huts, called Clachanessy, occupies the head of a sheltered bay.

The distance from Oldney to the entrance of the inlet to Kyle Skou may be six or seven miles. The hills of Eddrachillis are spread out before us, rising stage behind stage of gneiss ranges, on which the naked rock, and the scanty heath and pasture are pretty nearly equally intermixed, forming one continuous rocky band—the only marked deviation from the mean elevation being, as seen from hence, the tabular summit of Stack, on the south side of Loch Shin. Near hand, Cunaig, lying between Loch Assynt and Kyle Skou, presents itself in various aspects—the central point of the panorama, which, from the point of Stoir, on the south, to the perpendicular cliffs of Handa, on the north, a circuit of upwards of twenty miles of coast—shews only one at a time of the half-dozen of isolated houses, all, with the exception of the little township of Clachanessy, to be found along its iron-bound shores; so scattered, even on the coast, are the scanty population of this vast county. The inlet to the Kyle, and to Loch Dhu and Loch Coul beyond, is as grand a sea loch as can be imagined. There are two or three successive compartments, the largest about a mile and a-half wide, completely land-locked by barriers of low rocky hills, behind which are upreared the lofty bare hills which environ the two branches of Glen Dhu and Glen Coul, into which the inlet forks; while, on the right hand, Cunaig presents two enormous mountain masses at right angles to each other, one of which descends from the summit in a segment of precipices of the most imposing grandeur.

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12. Until the year 1831, there was no proper road, excepting that from Golspie, to Loch Inver, just described, through any part of this very rugged district; and the traveller desirous of proceeding northwards, had only the alternative of threading his dubious and weary way over rocks and bogs, under the pilotage of a guide, or of hiring a boat and coasting it along the singularly torn rocky shores that gird the district of country between the great Promontory of Stoir and Cape Wrath. These shores are covered with jagged and stupendous rocks, with huge promontories projecting into the sea, stoutly braving the fury of the waves. The lofty and impending cliffs are the home of the eagle and numberless aquatic birds; while the deep caverns below are the habitations only of the seal and the otter. Previous to the formation of the road, a foot-runner penetrated to the north with the letters once in six weeks! He served as a walking chronicle, putting up for the night at set houses, whither the people gathered on his arrival to learn the news.

Now, however, an excellent road (though very *narrow*, like most of the roads in Sutherlandshire, excepting the Great North Road, being only eight feet wide, with an edging of sward of a foot broad on each side) to the northward has been formed, through the parish of Eddrachillis, to the North Sea, at the church of Duirness, which completes the communication round the coasts of the county of Sutherland. It strikes off from the Loch Inver road, near the base of the mountain Cunaig, at Loch Assynt, and about three miles from Innisindamff. Proceeding across the high ground between this lake and the Kyle Skou, this line of road is, in consequence, somewhat steep in several parts, although by no means so much so as the elevated appearance of the country on all hands would lead a stranger to expect. The aspect of the scenery along its course is that of utter wildness, joined to the most uninterrupted solitude and seclusion. From the length of the ascent from Loch Assynt, the interminable ranges of hills become somewhat monotonous; but at the top a magical change of scene occurs, as the magnificent expanse of the Atlantic, with numerous islands, presents itself, and a deep, but narrow, arm of the ocean, and in several compartments connected by very confined straits, penetrates among the mountains, while Cunaig, on the left, uprears above a tremendous craggy front. Nine miles from Loch Assynt we arrive at the township of Unapool, and at

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the narrow, and very rapid, but well-regulated ferry across the Kyle Skou to Kyle Strome, in the parish of Eddrachillis. The small public-house is on the south side. A spring-cart is kept here. The Kyle at this point is seen dividing into two branches, near its termination at the east; one branch passing into Glen Dhu, the Dark Glen, and the other into Glen Coul—two of the wildest and most romantic glens in this part of the Highlands, the hills rising on all hands to a great height, interspersed with formidable cliffs, and the water of great depth.* At the Kyle the scenery alternates at every turn from soft to wild and romantic. The north front of Cunaig is also here beheld rising in great majesty, and in two huge masses, faced from summit to base, sheeted, and deeply furrowed precipices. From Kyle Skou a road is proposed to be formed in a southerly direction along the coast to Oldney, from which a road is already made to Stoir and Loch Inver. The north side of the ferry consists of a small peninsula, which at first sight is mistaken for an island, on which there is a tall prison-like storehouse, said to have been erected upwards of 200 years ago. The Kyle at this place is one of the best frequented fishing-stations in this quarter, in consequence of the safety of the anchorage, and the almost incredible shoals of fish that may be said to fill up this little channel—their young being found in abundance in it in winter, as well as early in summer. So many as 100 herring-busses have resorted to it at once; and the value of the herrings killed here in 1829 was estimated at £30,000. The take of herrings was also very large in 1849. The communication now opened by land along the coast will, it is hoped, encourage the establishment of a chain of regular fishing-stations from Loch Inver northwards to Wick; by which means the capitalist, following the migratory course pursued by the fish, will be enabled to turn both this rich marine treasury and his own resources to the best advantage. Meantime, however, we regret to say, that

* Should the tourist wish to penetrate to the extremities of the lochs of Glen Dhu and Glen Coul, we recommend him to procure a boat from the ferry, as the footing by land is undecided, easily lost, and not easily found. The scenery up Glen Coul is wild and savage in the extreme. It consists of three compartments, up the two lowest of which the salt-water flows. Between these is a very narrow strait, flanked by lofty rocks, and the land communication is along a ledge on the face of one of these, exceedingly narrow and dangerous. The water below is of great depth, and a false step were certain destruction. Glen Coul is, in wet weather, distinguished by one very high fall—that of Egg Coul Awlan, the beautiful back-lying waterfall—in the course of a burn which comes down the face of a rock about 700 feet in height.

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the two there were at Loch Inver and Rispond have been discontinued, and thus the people have no means of getting the fish cured and disposed of in any quantity.

Before quitting the Kyle, we must not admit to notice an unusual appearance, and, as far as we are aware, peculiar to itself, excepting a similar occurrence in the south of Arran, in the walls of the ruins of a round dune or tower on a little tongue of rock near the Kyle, which is isolated at high-water. These uncemented walls remaining are about eight feet high, and at the top about four feet thick. In the middle of the thickness of the wall, for about two feet, and extending all round, the stones are mingled with bones, which are decidedly human, but rather under the usual size. Their occurrence and preservation, supposing, as we needs must, the building to be of any considerable antiquity, are alike unaccountable, though the salt of the sea air and spray may be conceived to have had some influence.

13. Having crossed the Kyle Skou, we enter the parish of Eddrachillis, which is justly reputed the wildest and most rugged district in Scotland. The whole face of the district of Eddrachillis, as far as Rhiconich, is composed of ranges and knolls of gneiss, only partially covered with vegetation, but still valuable to the sheep farmer from the sheltered nature of the ground. The hollows are more roomy, the masses of hilly rock larger, and the appearance less intricate than about Loch Inver. After leaving the ferry, the road proceeds with a long but not very steep ascent, until, rounding the shoulder of the hill, it declines gently along the high side of a deep valley. For a considerable distance the road winds up and down in many a tortuous flexure through narrow defiles, the view being limited by the surrounding masses of rock and hill; but several small tarns and lochs, occasionally of some size, each, completely girdled round with rocky eminences, and frequently adorned with beautiful aquatic plants, appear at almost every bend of the road. The number of these lakes here, as in Assynt, especially in the north-west division, is incredible; and, being distinguished either by dark, still water, indicative of great depth, at the foot of rugged rocks, or by green sedgy banks and shallow margins, beautifully ornamented with the stately bulrush, and the elegant flowers and handsome leaves of the white water

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lily, (*Nymphæa alba*), are very pleasing features amid the singular scenery of the district.* The road is generally pretty much elevated, but here and there it descends to the coast. From the top of the mountains, many of which attain an elevation of 3000 feet, the country, intersected by arms of the sea, and chequered with lakes, rivers, and ravines, presents a peculiar aspect. Viewed from some miles' distance at sea, the landboard is considered to bear a close resemblance to the Norwegian coast.

A few miles further on, the road passes through a small wild glen, along a noisy stream that foams down its rocky bed into the sea at the safe harbour of Loch Colva. The projecting and angular ledges of rock that form the south side of this glen are very striking, and form a marked and beautiful variety in the scenery.

Beyond this glen, the scenery retains a similar character until we reach the sheltered bay of Badcaul ; improved, however, at a few points, by occasional vistas of the ocean. Badcaul, where the manse and parish church are situated, and a large establishment for the preserving of the salmon caught all along the coast, is distant nine miles from the ferry at Kyle Strome. Here a great many small islands attract attention from their number and grouping. About three miles farther on, through the same description of country, we reach the inn (now a very good though small one, and at which a phaeton is kept) and township of Scourie, surrounded on all sides, except the west, by an amphitheatre of rugged ledges of rock, backed by the pyramidal summit of Stack, and having in front a bay, wide at the opening, but receding at its upper extremity behind sheltering rocks. This place is comparatively verdant and arable, though the arable ground is of small extent ; but then in Eddrachillis there is no such thing as ground capable of cultivation, except on the most confined scale, and it derives additional attractions from the contrast it presents to the sterile and rocky surface that encompasses it.

14. Nearly opposite to Scourie, and at no great distance, is the large, but of late, uninhabited island of Handa. This island forms the most wonderful object along this coast, from its tower-

* In a marsh on the right of the road, about half-way between Kyle Strome and Badcaul, the prickly twig rush, *Cladium Mariscus*, grows. Until its discovery here (1833), it was said to be extinct in Scotland since the draining of the moss of Restenet, near Forfar.

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ing and majestic cliffs, and the immense number of wild sea-fowl that inhabit every crevice of its rocks.

No tourist ought to omit a visit to Handa. The island is formed of red sandstone, on which a highly comminuted and beautifully grained conglomerate overlies. The strata dip on the landward side, and the seaward front, is a range of precipices perfectly perpendicular, and for most as smooth and mural as the most perfect masonry, and washed by the ocean depths. They form a line of about two miles, ranging from perhaps 600 to fully 700 feet. This is so stupendous as to be almost unequalled in the British islands. Happily for the view hunter, they are admirably disposed for being seen to the best possible advantage from the summit, though in fine weather, when they can be approached by boat, new and, in some respects, most striking effects may be obtained from beneath. But they are widely indented, so that from opposing ends the eye commands the various sections, and as the ground slopes upwards to the very verge, the spectator can approach them without apprehension. In one of these indentations two detached columns rise, at the distance of a stone throw, and near each other—one about a fourth of the height, the other of the full height of the adjoining cliff. A fissure in the rock exhibits the sides of the larger one, which is perforated underneath—its upright lines seemingly at a few yards' distance from the perfectly perpendicular parted lines of the contiguous cliff. At another, the highest spot of all, a mural face of prodigious length demands undivided admiration of its truly majestic dimensions. Again, an enormous perforation reaches down to the level of the ocean, which makes its flux and reflux by two natural arches, on either side of a huge supporting block, underneath the seaward wall of the perpendicular aperture. The tour of inspection ought to be commenced on the north side, as the precipice attains the greatest elevation towards the opposite extremity of the range. On the narrow horizontal ledges of the cliffs and detached columns, and on the top of the larger one, are ranged and grouped, at the breeding season, myriads of beautiful black-backed guillemots, and other sea-fowl, as close as they can sit, while thousands are flying swiftly about. A shot fired sets inconceivable numbers of birds on the wing. But the pertinacity with which others stick to their roosting-places is quite as extraordinary; stones, and even repeated shots among them, fail to displace them.

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A gun will be found a desirable accessory. It is a common thing for the adventurous fowlers, who hesitate not to descend, with the utmost unconcern, crevices where it can hardly be credited that man would venture, to take the birds with the hand. They are frequently, too, let down by a rope from above, when they capture their prey by a noose fastened to a short stick. In this manner a man will at times make free with eighteen or twenty score at a time. The eggs, too, large, richly-tinted, and spotted, are an object of spoliation. These chiefly lie singly on the naked rock. The nestling season is from the middle of May till the middle of July, at which time a visit has the additional attraction of the seafowl, which at other times do not congregate here in any great number. Handa is covered with a fine sward, but it is unsuited for raising any sort of grain ; and the few families who tenanted it, not long ago, voluntarily abandoned it. It is now pastured by a few sheep, and a flock of patriarchal-looking pure white goats. Some years ago a vessel went to pieces on the terrific western precipices, when three or four of the seamen succeeded in reaching, from the yards, a crevice in the face of the cliffs. Here they were detected, after a lapse of some days, and rescued with life still flickering in them, attention being directed to them by parts of the wreck floating round the island. What a situation of hopeless suspense and of protracted peril, and suffering from hunger, cold, and the raging deep, and what a miraculous preservation from the very jaws of death! The cliff scenery is not alone what distinguishes Handa. It stands so high, and far enough from the land, to command a most comprehensive view of the coast from Rustoir past Loch Inchard, and of the huge mountain masses which, throughout this wide circuit, uprear their gigantic and varied forms, each apart from the other, above the encircling zone of rocky hills, which form, as it were, a common base to the whole—beginning at Ben Calva and Ben Spionnadh in Duirness, succeeded by Foinnebhein, Arkle, Stack, Ben More of Assynt, Cunaig, Cannisp, Suilvein, Coulmore, Coulbeg, Stackpollie, and the other Coigach and Loch Broom mountains, and various other more remote summits, with Skye and the Lewis. Such a magnificent mountain panorama can hardly be surpassed, for the mountains here are all giants. These, it may be remarked, generally range towards the east and west, so that in progressing from north to south, they assume an infinite variety of ap-

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pearance. The sea to landward, all around, is diversified by long projecting rugged headlands, and lines of rocky islands, while to the west extends the boundless surface of the Atlantic, one glorious expanse of cærulæan hue, patched with shifting masses of brown, produced simply by the shade of the varying sky. The most striking-looking mountain from this quarter is Stack, the terminal aspect of which is that of an enormous pyramid, rising to a perfect point. Suilvein appears under quite a new character, the two summits being far removed, and it shews itself to be in reality a long mountain, instead of the terminal sugar-loaf figure from which it is so well known. On the way to Handa a detached pillar of rock, at the point of Rustoir, from 200 to 300 feet high—broader above than below—shews, in the distance, exactly like a large ship under studding sails.

15. The holdings of the poor tenants on the west coast of Sutherlandshire average from £2 to £5 of rent. The crop of a £3 croft, of which the stocking consists of three small Highland cows, eight sheep, and one horse, will, in a favourable season, with milk and fish, support a family of four for eight months. An almost neglected mine of wealth lies at the door, in the cod and ling fishery, which hitherto have been but little attended to. However, the deep-sea fishing is said to be precarious on the coast; but abundance of the finest lobsters are sent to the London market. A lobster smack calls every ten days, and on the north coast every week, during three months, from the middle of April to the middle of July, carrying away each time from 2000 to 5000 lobsters. The disinclination to round Cape Wrath makes a difference of one-third (3d. and 4½d. a-piece) on the price at Scourie and Duirness. Salmon vessels call twice a-week for the fish of the whole coast northwards from Skye, collected and packed chiefly at Badcaul. They are caught in bag-nets off the headlands, net-fishing on the rivers on this coast being discontinued. The destruction by the bag-nets is so great, as to have a palpable effect in diminishing the numbers of the fish. Substantial cottages of stone and lime have pretty generally been substituted for the comfortless Highland hut, under the auspices of the noble proprietors.

About 60,000 acres of the parishes of Eddrachillis and Duirness are allotted exclusively to the red deer; of which animal, the Foinnebhein and Reay Forests—amongst the principal in Scotland—support some thousands, under the charge of

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several foresters. The numbers in Reay and Foinnebhein are computed at about 5000. The deer of Sutherlandshire (and they are numerous in other parts of the country) are considered to surpass any in Scotland, averaging fifteen stone Dutch in weight, and at times exceeding eighteen stone. Those of the Reay country have long been distinguished by a peculiarity of forked tails.

The family of "Mackay of Scourie" gave birth to Lieutenant-general Hugh Mackay, commander-in-chief at the Revolution, and Dundee's unsuccessful opponent at Killiecrankie, but a brave and able military, and otherwise excellent character.

16. From Scourie the road leads along the south side of Baddyndarroch; then, winding through several rocky passes, and over a considerable tract of deep moss, and by a shepherd's house at Baddynabay, the wayfarer arrives at an arm of the salt-water loch of Laxford, which is of very irregular outline, with many projecting points of rocky eminences, and at the considerable river Laxford, which is crossed by a large substantial bridge seven miles distant from Scourie. In this neighbourhood, some of the large mountains to the east—particularly the huge pyramidal Stack, Arkle, also detached and tapering, and the ponderous-looking and extensive Foinnebhein (pronounced Founiven)—form very grand and picturesque objects. The Laxford is esteemed among the best angling rivers in the north, both for salmon and trout, and used to be of great resort to the angler; but it is now rented by Lord Grosvenor—still free, however, we believe, for trout-fishing. The word Laxford is a good example of the Scandinavian derivation of a great many of the names of abiding features of the country—Laxfiord, the salmon-firth. Stac and Merkland are also Scandinavian words, descriptive of the form of the mountain and situation of the lake. Of the Scandinavian Dune or Burgh there are traces of a great number along the west and north coast, although Dune Dornadilla is the only one generally known. The names of places and townships are Celtic. In many instances, a Celtic prefix is found where the Scandinavian word is entire—thus, Helmsdale is now Strath-Helmsdale.

After leaving Laxford, the road is formed along the face of an extensive and formidable rock, now called Lawson's Rock, from the engineer who lined out the road, so situated and overhanging the water as to have required great labour and expense

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in its formation. Hence the road still proceeds through narrow and lonely openings, formed by nature amidst the innumerable masses of rock—which from their ruggedness have procured this piece of country the appropriate name of the Kerrngarbh—as far as Rhiconich Inn, at the head of Loch Inchard, another extensive salt-water loch, distant six miles from the Bridge of Laxford. There is also another large bridge here over the river Inchard, the country beyond which appears more open. Intricate rocky hills, however, are still for a little further the principal features of the scenery; on the summits of which numerous large detached blocks of stone, resulting from disintegration, are seen marking the outlines of the ridges. The pasture of this rugged district is composed of deers'-hair-moss and coarse grass, with little or no heather; and, in fact, it may be stated generally of the pastures of Sutherland, that great tracts of them, especially in the lower valleys, are more adapted for the rearing of cattle than of sheep, the latter preferring to browse on the tender grasses of the uplands, where they are also in the summer season less annoyed by insects than in the plains. Indeed, the meadow-grasses are becoming so strong, from want of being pastured, as to choke up the waters and increase the extent of marshy ground. The shores of Loch Inchard are pretty numerously inhabited; and near the mouth of the loch stand the new Government Church and manse, and also the Free Church and manse of Kinloch-Bervie, to which a branch road strikes off from Rhiconich. At Rhiconich there is a better sort of public-house, where two or three beds can be had, should tourists have occasion to remain; but they will generally push on for Durin or Scourie.*

After leaving Rhiconich, the road passes northward, and for a considerable distance proceeds along and overhangs the river of Achrisgill, which is sometimes seen forming pleasing cascades over the high rocks that cross its channel. But the sides and bottom of the little strath through which it flows, are covered with heath and pasture, and we now find ourselves in quite a different character of country, the surface uniformly covered, except in the mountain masses, with peat, heath, and pasture. The road still ascending—but very gradually for some miles—reaches the shoulder of a lofty hill, proverbial for

* A spring-cart, carrying three, is kept by the inn-keeper at Rhiconich, and a vehicle of the same description at Kyle Skou.

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its open exposure, and the consequent severity with which the storm beats upon it. This tract is called the Gualin, signifying "the shoulder;" and here, on its most exposed part, a house has been erected, where a dram is sold, which, like the caravansaries of the East, may serve to shelter the luckless traveller who may chance to encounter tempestuous weather while passing along. The Gualin looks down upon the bend of a widely-extended valley, stretching down from between Foinnebhein and Ben Spionnadh, on the west side of which it descends to the head of the Kyle of Duirness. At each end of the Gualin House, and also of the Moin House, between the Kyle of Tongue and Loch Hope, there is a large slab inserted, with a long inscription commemorative of the completion, in 1831, of the great chain of Sutherlandshire roads—an allowable expression of natural complacency in the contemplation of the successful achievement of a very arduous and highly-useful undertaking. About half-way to the Inn of Durin, which is ten miles from the Gualin, we reach the Kyle, a fine wide land-locked inlet, bordered by heathy granite hills on the west; but the mountains on the east decline into an elevated table-land of limestone rocks, stretching across to Loch Erriboll, and affording the most fertile, beautiful pasture, and fine arable land, subdivided by high and substantial stone dykes. The road, crossing the river Grudie, which discharges itself into the Bay of Duirness, passes along the shores of the bay to the farm of Keoldale; immediately to the north of which, and distant fourteen miles from Rhiconich, the wearied tourist will gladly hail the green knolls and modest church, and to him the more immediately interesting comforts of the excellent Inn of Duirness.

ROUTE FOURTH.—BRANCH F.

TONGUE TO THURSO.

Strath Tongue; Strathnaver; Farr Church, &c., 1.—Port Skerry; Glen Hallowdale and Melvich; Reay Village; Forss, 2.—Scrabster Roadstead; Murder of two Bishops, 3.

	Miles.
Bettyhill of Farr Inn	12
Strathy Village and Inn	8
Melvich Inn in Glen Hallowdale	8
Reay Kirk and Inn	4
Thurso	12
	44

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1. This line of road, from Tongue to Thurso, possesses considerable variety of surface, the ground being intersected by several cross ridges and valleys. Cheerless moors occupy the greater part of the intermediate spaces, many portions of which, however, seem susceptible of cultivation with comparatively little labour and expense.

From the house and highly ornamented grounds of Tongue, the road makes a rapid ascent, and winds along the high ground above. Passing Strath Tongue and Coldbackie, a confined but fertile valley, with a birch-wooded rivulet at the base of the bold Crockreikdun (the Watch Hill), a singular rock, entirely destitute of vegetation, and presenting a lofty perpendicular front; it leads for several miles through a long and uninteresting tract of moor to the river of Borgie, whence, having gained the high ground, it proceeds down a deep ravine, alongside a mountain torrent (whose course presents a continued series of small cascades), into Strathnaver and to the ferry station on the river, which is crossed by one of the chain-boats alluded to in a preceding branch.

Through this extensive and beautiful valley an ample river winds among rich holms and meadows. Its mouth is sandy, and the hill bounding the valley to the west also appears as one great sandbank, with masses of rock protruding out at intervals. On the rising ground on the farther side of the river, a little way down the strath, we reach (twelve miles from Tongue) the inn of Bettyhill of Farr, a comfortable house, in an airy and exposed situation; and beneath are the church and manse of Farr, with its fine green downs stretching to the bay.* Between the valley of the Naver and that of Hallowdale the country is, for the most part, barren and moorland. The rocky shores of the coast are the most marked objects in the scenery; the surrounding country being by no means mountainous, though sufficiently rugged and hilly. Intermediate are several small glens, as Swordle, Armadale, and Strathy. Swordle is steep and rocky; Armadale remarkable for the deep rocky shores of its bay. At Strathy, about half way between Farr and Melvich Inns, there is a populous hamlet, a government church and manse, a small neat inn, and good limestone and sandstone quarries. Strathy Head stretches far into the North Sea.

* *Hieracium umbellatum* grows abundantly on the knolls behind Farr Kirk.

2. Approaching Glen Hallowdale, a road branches off towards the sea, which leads to the romantic and superior boat harbour of Port Skerry, one of the best and most successful fishing creeks in the North. The Hallowdale is a considerable river, entering the sea at the Bay of Melvich, and along which are seen large and extensive embankments, recently erected, at a great expense, to protect a valuable and fertile meadow. On the west side of the river is the township of Melvich, with several scattered cottages on the sloping side of the valley; and conspicuous towards its mouth, on the opposite side, close to the river and the sea, the House of Bighouse, the seat of an ancient and respectable branch of the clan Mackay, recently added by purchase to the ducal territories of Sutherland. The Hallowdale, like the other rivers we have mentioned, is at present crossed by a chain-boat.

Ascending gradually from Hallowdale towards the top of the bleak and lonesome hill of Drumholstein, the boundary between Sutherland and Caithness (no very definable line) is passed, and, traversing several tracts of moss, the road descends to the small village of Reay, four miles from Bighouse, passing the venerable mansion of Sandside (Innes, Esq.), pleasantly situated amidst wood. The bay of Sandside, flanked by dark frowning rocks, the sandy banks in front, the church detached from the village, and seated prominently on a green rising ground, with the round-headed hills which girdle in the place, form altogether a very unusual scene, and one which the stranger generally feels as peculiarly secluded.

Proceeding eastward, past Isauld (Capt. Macdonald), and the ruins of Castle Down Reay, the ancient seat of the Mackays of Reay, a tract of barren heath is crossed, when we reach (six miles from Reay), the handsome though rather heavy-looking residence of Forss (Sinclair, Esq.), romantically situated beside a meandering and rocky stream, and surrounded by several belts of young trees judiciously arranged.

Beyond Forss the country again assumes a bleak aspect, and the road conducts almost due east, parallel to, but at a distance from, the shore, passing the House of Brinns.

3. Approaching the safe and commodious roadstead of Scrabster, in Thurso Bay, which is protected from the swell of the stormy Northern Sea by the great promontory of Holburn Head, well-cultivated and extensive corn-fields greet the eye,

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occupying the remaining distance to Thurso, which lies south-east.

In the distance, and lying north of Dunnet Head, the majestic mural western termination of Hoy is in full view, while the shores of the Bay of Thurso, and their fine sandy beach, extend before us with an ample and graceful sweep.

Not far from the road stood Scrabster Castle, one of the residences of the bishops of Caithness; but the foundations alone now remain. It was here that John, Bishop of Caithness, was cruelly put to death in the twelfth century, the prelate's tongue and eyes having been previously pulled out. A similar instance of barbarism occurred in the following century, at the neighbouring place of Halkirk, when Adam, another of the bishops, after being dragged by the hair and scourged with rods, was boiled in a large cauldron by the natives, in retaliation of his fulminations against those in arrear of tithes.

Thurso, elsewhere described in this volume, is six miles from Forss.

NOTE TO ROUTE IV.

Dunrobin Castle, 1.—Herring, Cod, and Ling Fisheries, 2.—Strathpeffer, 3.—Meikle Ferry and Dornoch; Errata and Addenda, 4.—Steam Communication to the West of Ross, and Sutherlandshire.

(1.) DUNROBIN CASTLE.

Some further details regarding the princely structure recently erected by his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, in addition to the general description, page 409, may be acceptable to public curiosity—directed naturally to the country of the "Morfhear Chatt," in the prospect of her Majesty accomplishing her long projected visit to this northerly portion of her dominions—and as now certainly the largest and most ornamented edifice in the Highlands. The building, as has been indicated, is in the French or Flemish style, which prevailed in Scotland in the latter part of the sixteenth and the first half of the seventeenth century, but with suitable adaptations as to light and other comforts. Types of nearly all the exterior parts may be found in the old French castles—the turrets and cornices are Scotch. The principal part of the new building consists of a solid mass of about 100 feet square and 80 feet high, of three principal

storeys, besides basement and attics, and it is flanked with towers at the corners. The connexion between this mass and the old castle is, with the latter, a storey lower, and the whole presents a five-sided elevation to the sea and coastwise, while the entrance court, between the opposing extremes, faces the north, the old castle forming the western, and the great quadrangular mass the eastern portion of the edifice; and the connecting section, which contains the state apartments designed for her Majesty, directly fronting the sea. A small interior court is formed by the different structures. At each corner of the square mass there is a lofty tower—those on the seaward side round, the others square—the main tower at the north-east corner forming the porte-cocher underneath. All the towers have high and sharp pointed roofs, excepting the main tower, the roof of which is incurved and truncated. They are covered with lead, formed to represent scales overlapping each other; and the round towers rise, at the apex, to a height of 115 feet above the terrace, while the great tower, which is twenty-eight feet square, is of the great height of 135 feet above the terrace, thus overtopping the highest main wall by two high storeys, and the round towers by one storey. It has four projecting bracketted turrets on the corners round the uppermost storey, which diminishes in girth, and is bevelled at the angles, and is encircled by a parapet wall. The fourth (the clock) tower does not project superficially, but is 125 feet high. The corner turrets of the old castle have been raised, and other alterations effected, to make it harmonize with the new buildings—especially by very well managed additions on the side to the entrance court. A small turret in this section, on one of the angles, resembles one in the Castle de Cliny, Paris, the peculiarity of which is, that the turret stands on the top of a column in a corner, with an ornamental capital.

A massive rampart wall stretches along the whole of the sea frontage, a length of 300 feet, with bastions at the ends, and opposite to the angles of the castle—enclosing a flagged terraced space, a few feet lower than the entrance front. Over the windows of the principal floor are scrolls with coronets, with the initials of the Duke and Duchess interlaced, and the ancient motto of the Sutherland family, "Sans peur;" and over the windows of the great tower are pediments and thistles, with the mottoes and initials of the different members of the family; and

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in front of the library window, which is in the front of the great tower, and in the boudoir rooms, which are in the round towers, are projected balconies similarly ornamented.

The whole building is finished at top with a deep block cornice and parapet, and high ornamented dormer windows, and is wholly faced with ashler from Brora Quarry—a hard durable white oolite.

Successive broad flights of steps conduct down a wooded bank to the flower gardens, laid out in the style of French gardening, which occupy the space betwixt the site of the castle and the sea, and are lined by a massive ornamental wall.

On the landward side the ground rises immediately behind the castle, and the bank has had to be cut into, so that a portion of the effect of the great height is lost. The best point of view is from the sea shore to the eastward. Here the building has certainly a very imposing and stately appearance; and in all directions the numerous pinnacles, and variously elevated roofage, with the gigantic entrance tower looming high at one corner, forms a very striking and picturesque sky outline, gently declining from point to point to the further extremity.

The monument and colossal statue of the late Duke, on the top of Ben Vracky in the back ground, forms a peculiar feature in the landscape.

The ground-floor contains the entrance hall, vestibule, family dining-room, sub-hall, Duke's business room, and other apartments. The Duke's room is entirely panelled with sweet cedar; the entrance-hall is lined with Caen stone; and over the chimney-piece—of the same material, and sculptured by our promising young townsman, Mr. Alexander Munro—are contained, in beautiful panels, the numerous quarterings of the present Duke and Duchess, of the first Duke of Sutherland, and of Lord and Lady Stafford. The arms of the ancient Earls of Sutherland cut in panels, form a frieze, extending round the hall somewhat like the Crusaders Rooms at Versailles.

From the entrance hall, by a broad flight of steps and large archway, is the entrance to the vestibule, which is entirely built and arched with Caen stone, and enriched with a statue of Lord Stafford, and numerous coats of arms and armorial ornaments.

The grand staircase, which leads from the ground to the principal floor, is about thirty feet square and fifty feet high,

and is placed in the centre of the new square mass of building, giving access to all the public rooms on the principal floor. The walls, piers, arches, and balustrade are of Caen stone. It is lighted by flat plate-glass panelling, and over the dining-room door is a Madonna and Child in white marble.

The principal floor, which is all eighteen feet high, contains the principal dining-room, drawing-rooms, billiard room, and state rooms. The dining-room toward the court is forty feet by twenty-two, and is finished with a panelled oak ceiling, ornamented with gilded stars. The walls are wainscotted, and have for panels valuable large old painted landscapes with figures in oil, and carved oak and plate-glass mirrors; and a frieze of oil-painting from Italy runs quite round the room. The chimney-piece and door architraves are of polished granite, from the Duke of Argyll's quarry in Mull, which harmonizes very well with the doors, which are of oak; and the shutters are of plate-glass, corresponding with the compartments of glass in the windows. The depth of the frieze takes away from the height of the room, which altogether is rather heavy and dull. Still the style is uncommon, and the panels and frieze fine works of art.

In the ante-room, which faces the east, and gives access to the library and drawing-rooms, is an ornamental armorial chimney-piece, by Mr. Munro, with supporters, and the ducal arms complete.

The drawing-rooms, with boudoir and ladies' closets, occupy the south-east part of the castle, toward the sea and garden; the principal drawing-room is forty-five by twenty-two feet, and the smaller one twenty-two feet square. The ceilings are ornamented with a series of square and octagonal panels, in the former of which, in gilt letters, are the initials of the Duke and Duchess, of their family, and near relatives; the cornice is highly enriched and relieved with gold; all the shutters are of plate-glass; the wood work is painted white and gold; the walls of the large drawing-room hung with rich crimson silk, and those of the smaller with flowered green silk, and over the chimneys are two noble paintings of Venice—Canaletti's, we believe.

Between the dining and drawing rooms, and forming a connexion between them, and on the west side of the staircase, with which it communicates by three plate-glass doors, is the billiard-room, with a deep oak and cedar panelled ceiling, high

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panelled surbase, and the walls finished with blue and gold paper. From the south corner of, and connected with the staircase, runs a long lofty groined corridor, which joins the new to the old buildings, and from which the state-rooms enter. The different compartments of the walls are filled with paintings, with marble tables, and vases for flowers, &c.

The state bedroom is twenty-three feet square and eighteen feet high, with a block cornice, ornamented with gilded armorial emblems and thistles, and panelled ceiling, painted blue, with stars; the doors are of ornamented oak, relieved with gold, and the walls hung with rich flowered silk; and the curtains are of the richest description. Between the bed-room and the small drawing-room, and connected with each, is the Queen's dressing-room, which is nearly twenty feet square, and on the opposite side Prince Albert's dressing-room, of nearly the same dimensions, both of which are finished similar, and to correspond with the state bed-room. These, with the drawing-rooms, certainly are very beautiful and splendid suites of rooms, and exhibit no less chaste elegance of taste, than prodigality of expense. There seems, however, reason to fear that the climate and sea-air may prove trying to the delicate hangings, and to the lustre of the gilding; but great attention having been paid to heating the whole edifice by means of two large apparatus in the basement storey, the risk of injury may be diminished.

The third floor is occupied by the family and other bedrooms. The Duke and Duchess' bed and dressing rooms and bath rooms occupy the sea front, and overlook the gardens. These rooms have panelled and ornamented ceilings, the doors and other wood-work are of varnished deal, relieved with gold; the walls hung with silks and papers of the choicest patterns, and the panels of the shutters of the Duchess' apartments are of mirrors which reflect the gardens and sea view.

About 130 beds can be made down in Dunrobin. Such an extent of building has been in a great degree owing to the remoteness of the situation, and from a desire, by abundant accommodation for the very numerous members of the family, to induce their prolonged stay together in the north.

The approach is to leave the public road near Golspie Church, skirt along the wooded bank, cross the ravine called Meg's Burn by an arch of from sixty to seventy feet span, and enter the centre court on the east side.

The entire plan which the Duke has in view embraces building a large keep (in which there will, in all probability, be a suitable feudal hall), an elegant chapel to the east of the castle, and connected with the library and entrance hall, and the enclosing of the whole court.

The whole of the arrangements have been made by Mr. Leslie, of Messrs. M'Donald & Leslie, stone and marble works, Aberdeen, under the Duke's directions, and some of the ornamental parts are from sketches furnished by Mr. Barry, but all examined and approved by the Duke before being executed, and his Grace has suggested the greater part of them, and the whole has been finished under his directions.

During the recent years of distress from the potato failure, the works have been a source of very seasonable relief, in the employment of a large number of persons. Besides the labourers engaged about the building, many women and girls have been daily at work with the furniture. A marked effect has been produced on the industrial habits of the people of Sutherlandshire by the large amount of labour at all times in progress on the Sutherland estates.

(2.) HERRING, COD, AND LING FISHERIES.

In reference to the remark made (p. 16), that "it is singular that this economical article of food (herring) is still so little used in the great manufacturing towns of England," our attention has been called to a correspondence detailing the results of a trial of this fish recently made in the Staffordshire Potteries. The manufacturers would seem to disincline the use of the cured fish, from a notion that they would serve but as a fresh provocative to the further indulgence in the favourite beverage of beer. This seems not an insuperable barrier. With due attention to the remedying of any undue saltness before being dressed, and the using them in moderation, and as only a part of the bill of fare, we apprehend all objections on this score might be met. Fresh meat is, however, the all-in-all of the English operative, and they cling to it, to the exclusion of other fare, partly from a sort of association of fish, especially salted cod, with low wages and short commons. It is surely possible to disabuse them of this prejudice. A good salted or cured herring would soon come to be esteemed as an economical

and savoury occasional relish. Perseverance in any attempts to introduce their general use is, however, indispensable, and the co-operation of employers is desirable. Could it be brought about, it would open up an important market for this staple of our north seas. Yarmouth bloaters are sometimes sold in the English manufacturing counties, but so sparingly, that this is thought to augur ill for the herring. However, the bloater is comparatively dear, and cannot be retailed under a penny a-piece.

Efforts are being made to promote the use of coffee at the herring-fishing stations in Sutherlandshire, in place of whisky. It seems to require but perseverance and the use of a genuine article, to bring it into favour.

From the Report of the British Fishery Society for 1849, which has appeared since the preceding pages were thrown off, we gather the following particulars:—

	Barrels.
The Returns of the Herring Fishery for 1849 are much the largest upon record. The total quantity of *herrings* cured throughout the kingdom was	770,698¼
Taken and sold for immediate consumption (in so far as can be ascertained...	381,281
	1,151,979¼

	Cwt.
Of *cod* and *ling*, there were cured dried	98,903
	Barrels.
And cured in pickle	6,588
	Cwt.
Used fresh	276,287

	Barrels.
It would appear that of the *herrings*, the proportion *cured* along the English coasts was	88,829
North of the Clyde on the west, and of the Spey on the east of Scotland	343,140
Rest of Scotland	338,729¼
	770,698¼

While of those used *fresh*, the relative quantities stand—

	Barrels.
England	235,971
Scotland, north of above limits	66,072
Rest of Scotland	79,138
	381,281

		Cwt.
Of *cod* and *ling*, the quantity *cured* in England was		1,973¼
	Barrels.	
North of Scotland, as above	1622	87,731¼
Rest of Scotland	4964	9,198¼
	6588	98,903

Of *cod* and *ling* used in a *fresh* state—

	Cwt.
England	205,337
North of Scotland, as before	30,594
Rest of Scotland	40,356
	276,287

The number of *boats*, decked and undecked, on the shore curing herring, and cod and ling fisheries, in 1849; *fishermen*, *boys*, *coopers*, and other persons employed, were—

	Boats.	Fishermen and Boys.	Persons employed in cleaning, curing, coopering, &c.
In England	4,698	20,259	7,695
North of Scotland	7,100	27,973	19,459
Rest of Scotland	3,164	11,560	11,380
	14,962	59,792	38,534

The exports of herring to the continent of Europe have risen, we are glad to learn, within twelve years, from 64,870 barrels, to 257,108 barrels, notwithstanding the commercial restrictions in most countries where this fish is much in use, and to the modification of which the Fishery Board have anxiously directed the attention of the Board of Trade, as the opening of markets for disposal has not kept pace with the increasing quantities being taken—thus causing a paralysing depreciation in price. The consumption of herrings abroad is enormous; and were foreign markets fully open, there can be no doubt that there are around our shores almost unlimited undeveloped resources of production. It may interest the reader to know, that the tonnage employed in 1849 in carrying salt to the fisheries, amounts to 39,061 tons, and the number of hands, to 2834; tonnage employed in exporting, to 42,730 tons, and number of hands, 3267; tonnage of fishing boats, to 126,520 tons. The number of square yards of netting employed in the fisheries amounts to 94,916,584; the number of yards of lines amounts to 36,313,706; and the total value of boats, nets, and lines, amounts to £1,189,090.

(3.) STRATHPEFFER.

It escaped us, in our notice of this watering-place, to allude to the very unsuitable condition of many of the lodging-houses. Some of the more respectable—but they are comparatively few—are very comfortable; but, generally speaking, there is a sad want of tidiness and thorough cleanliness, an absence of such pieces of furniture as sofas, and easy-chairs, and similar accessories to the lounging habits of a watering-place, or they are so hard and comfortless, as to be anything but inviting; while most of the houses are most disgraceful—a century behind in the first essentials of health and decency. The furniture altogether is not at all what it ought to be, and even the very beds are too frequently objectionable. On the other hand, charges are very high for the accommodation. The supplies of provisions, too, are most inadequate, and troublesome to be had, more especially of groceries, at least excepting some of the most indispensable articles; fish, excepting occasionally grilse and salmon; vegetables, especially in the commencement of the season; liquors, and coals. These are hardly to be procured at all, unless carried, at much inconvenience and cost, from a distance. There is good bread to be had, and a tolerable supply of butcher-meat—that is, of mutton, lamb, and veal; but even for dairy produce. one has to trust to chance calls, or to make arrangements which a stranger is at first not up to. Were a well-conducted general provision store, for all sorts of commodities, to be opened during the season, it could not fail to prove a good speculation, as the visitors would not grudge, and those who have had experience of the present state of things would gladly acquiesce in, a remunerating profit. The proprietor is called upon not only to give facilities for building accommodation for the numbers of all classes who now resort to this valuable mineral, but to do everything to stimulate and encourage a better order of things in all respects. By a little mutual arrangement and co-operation, water could easily be introduced into all the houses. At present the cisterns—and there are none such excepting in the best lodging-houses—are merely of rain water. Even for drinking purposes it is troublesome sending for water. A tolerable number of vehicles on hire would also, we think, meet with demand where there is so much fine scenery at hand.

There is a coach three times a-day to and from Dingwall, at very reasonable fares.

(4.) MEIKLE FERRY AND DORNOCH—ERRATA AND ADDENDA.

(P. 400.) The distance from Tain to the Meikle Ferry is *four* miles; the width of the ferry three quarters of a mile; and there is no pier as yet on the south side. The accident there happened in 1809. The road to Dornoch, from the Bonar Bridge road, strikes off about a mile north from Clashmore, and the town is rather more than two miles from the main road. Though the soil about Dornoch is light, there are well cultivated fields near the town. Its population is about 800. There were aisles to the nave of the old cathedral. These have not been restored. It requires but the removal of one or two houses and gardens, which obstruct the area of the large square space round which are ranged the Cathedral, the tower of the Bishop's Palace, the County Buildings, and the Prison, to display this assemblage of imposing public edifices to a degree of advantage which would place Dornoch on a footing, in point of architectural embellishment, little expected in the somewhat out-of-the-way county town of Sutherlandshire. There are extensive portions of the parish of Dornoch under young plantations, and there is a considerable rural population comfortably settled.

(5.) STEAM COMMUNICATION TO THE WEST OF ROSS, AND SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

The Skye steamer calls once a-fortnight at Gairloch, and the Tobermory steamer once a-fortnight at Loch Inver, during the summer months.

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SECTION VIII.

THE WESTERN ISLES AND CANTYRE.

A.—ISLE OF ARRAN AND AILSA CRAIG.

General Features; Coast-line, 1.—Brodick Bay and Castle, 2.—Ascent of Goatfell, 3.—Corriegills; Lamlash Bay, 4.—Brodick to Loch Ransa; Corrie; Glen Sannox; The Fallen Rocks; The Cock of Arran; Scriden, 5.—Loch Ransa, 6.—West Coast of Arran; Corrie an Lachan; Caves and Cliffs at Tormore; Drumodune Point; Obelisks, Circles, and Cairns, 7.—Shiskin to the Struey Cliffs; Tor Chastel; Southend Harbour; The Black Cave, 8.—Kildonan; Pladda Island; Falls of Easiemore, 9.—The Dippin Rocks; Glen Ashdale; Attractions of Arran, 10.—Ailsa Rock, 11.

1. ARRAN is one of the most remarkable of our islands. It presents in itself an epitome at once of geology and of scenery, while it offers a rich field to the botanist, conchologist, and student of the more minute and less perfect forms of animal life; and in its antiquities it exhibits still further sources of interest. In extent this island is about twenty-eight miles of extreme length, and about twelve of average breadth, and it forms nearly a regular parallelogram. The characters of the northern and southern divisions are strongly contrasted. The great mass of the former consists of granite mountains, upheaved to an elevation of from 2000 to 3000 feet, the highest summit, that of Goatfell, being 2959 feet above the sea, while the southern portion, generally elevated and hilly, does not, however, attain a higher altitude than about 900 feet. While the mountainous portion is distinguished by the very abrupt character of the closely grouped naked mountain masses, the sharply serrated outlines and peaked summits of the connecting ridges, and their deeply cleft and precipitous glens, corries, and ravines, the other is spread out in the undulations characteristic of the trap, porphorytic, and other igneous rocks, of which it is mainly composed —covered with a deep stratum of peat and alluvium—cropping out, however, especially on the coasts, in many bold perpendicular cliffs, and the hill faces assuming a markedly terraced character, the stages of verdant and cultivated slopes presenting an exceedingly pleasing appearance. The formations in the order

of their superposition are granites, coarse and fine grained, in mass and in veins; clay slate and schists; old red sandstone; carboniferous series (limestone, shales, coal, and hematite), new red sandstone, overlying igneous rocks, viz., claystone, porphyry, lyenite, pitchstone, and pitchstone porphyry; basalt, greenstone, porphyritic trap, and Amygdaloed. This enumeration may serve to shew the geological attractions of Arran, than which the student could not select a more instructive field of observation. The subject will be found fully illustrated in "The Geology of the Island of Arran," a detailed and very lucid treatise, by Andrew Crombie Ramsay, while the pages of Macculloch form a mine of information, not only on the geological but all the other features of the island. The general student of natural history is referred to "Arran and its Natural History," by the Rev. David Landsborough; and in the number of Murray's handbooks on Arran, a large amount of miscellaneous matter is embodied.

An almost uninterrupted belt of gravelly shingle—its landward surface carpeted with grassy sward and pasture—encircles the island, affording a ready access round the coast, and frequently tinted over with daisies and buttercups, and associated wild flowers. The shores are generally steep and rocky. At the mouths of the numerous streams are further considerable alluvial deposits. Large blocks of granite from the primitive district lie scattered on the surface, and imbedded in the gravel banks throughout the island.

2. On the east side of the island are two bays—Brodick and Lamlash. The latter, being protected by an islet (Holy Isle) lying right across, is a roadstead of frequent recourse to shipping in stress of weather. Goatfell, whose peaked summit forms the apex of several converging ridges, forming so many rocky shoulders, lies north of Brodick Bay.

Brodick Bay (twenty miles distant from Ardrossan) is a scene of very varied and striking beauty. Well indented into the side of the island, a fertile plain or valley, about a mile square, succeeds the white sloping beach, and branches on the north into two other glens; Glen Roza—running back northward into the heart of Goatfell and the other associated granitic mountain ranges, which flank it with rugged precipices—and Glen Shirray, extending to the west, and both presenting much of wild picturesque beauty; while from the southern head of

the bay extends another opening—Glen Cloy—through softly swelling hills. Each of these valleys sends down its channelled stream. The fertile fields and pastures, and lower hill slopes, are bedecked with numerous houses (Brodick being the most considerable village in the island), and variegated with trees; while on the north side of the bay, Brodick Castle, a lofty and very old square keep, with extensive additions of various ages, and some of them quite recent, surmounts a rocky wooded bank. Behind the surrounding woods stretches a long expanse of heath, and beyond rises the elegant tapering form and gray peak of Goatfell. Nor must the accessories be forgotten of the numerous boats and vessels which enliven the waters and shores of the bay. The greater part of Arran has for centuries belonged to the family of Hamilton, and Brodick Castle forms a favourite residence of the Marquis of Douglas. In the gardens many exotic plants flourish in the open air.

3. The ascent of Goatfell is a frequent excursion with visitors to Arran. It is noways difficult, and the ordinary path leads from near the village inn, but the geologist will thread his way along the course of the Cnocan burn. The shoulders of Goatfell and of the adjoining mountains, especially Beinn Gnuis and Caistael Abdael, are characterised by cyclopean walls of granite blocks. On the summit of the last named, several such isolated masses rise to an elevation of perhaps a hundred feet. Portions of the slopes of the southern shoulder of Goatfell exhibit masses of granite overlapping one another; and farther down a huge horizontal slab of granite, called the Druid stone, rests on pillars of stone. The eye, from the summit, looks down upon a series of sharp roof-like mountain ridges, rising into spiry peaks, and intersected by deep and precipitous hollows. The immediately near features, and especially of the masses of Nature's masonry, give, we have been assured, a very tolerable notion of the scenery of the Andes. With this rugged expanse the softer character of other parts of the island form an immediate contrast. Around stretch the waters of the ocean and of the Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne, and their very varied framework of hill and dale spread map-like before the spectator. A peculiar feature of the granitic ranges is the frequency and bowl-shaped configuration of the corries.

4. Between Brodick and Lamlash Bays the seaward cliffs at Corriegills attain a height of about 500 feet.

Lamlash is distinguished by the fine conical form, and on the east side the columnar cliffs of Holy Island. The islet is about 1000 feet high, and three miles long, and is almost completely covered over with the trailing *Arbutus Uva-ursi*. It gives a double entrance to the bay, and is distinguished by the cave of St. Molios, a missionary from Iona, the waters of a spring in which were long held of sovereign medicinal efficacy, and by the indistinct traces of a monastery founded by John of the Isles. Kilbride is a mean village. There is a vitrified fort on Dun Fionn, and several upright stones on the hill behind the parochial manse, are among the numerous antiquarian vestiges, as sepulchral cairns and obelisks, scattered over the island. There are similar tall slabs of stone at Brodick. MacCulloch is disposed to regard those at Lamlash as ruined cromlechs, similar to those in Cornwall, Wales, and Guernsey, a species of monument comparatively rare in Scotland.

5. Between Brodick and Loch Ransa, another smaller bay on the north or north-west of the island, lies the finest section of the coast scenery. The rocky shore is indented by numerous creeks, to all the sinuosities of which the encircling terrace in most parts gives access. Many home-steads accompany our steps along the first part of the coast, while the irregular cliffs, revealing glimpses of the lofty mountain tops and their shelving sides, frequently strewed with broken masses of shivered rock, are ornamented by trees and brushwood, frequently descending to the very margin of the water.

In working the extensive limestone quarries at the village of Corrie, artificial excavations of considerable extent have been formed in the rocks. Further on, Glen Sannox is found running up from the coast into the heart of Goatfell. Encompassed by spiry barriers of naked granite, it presents, in common with others of the adjoining glens, but perhaps in higher degree, in its breadth of light and shade, its silent and unadorned grandeur, much of the character of the wild solitudes of the Cuchullins in Skye.

About two miles north of Glen Sannox, the upper part of the cliff having given way, has strewed the whole abrupt hill-face and the shore with huge masses of rocks—called the Fallen Rocks—and again at Scriden, the most northerly point of the island, a similar appearance is presented on a still larger scale, there having been a landslip of the strata which affected almost

the entire hill even to the summit, covering the declivity and the shore to the sea-margin with an avalanche of rock for a space of about a mile, the passage through which is uneven, tortuous, and somewhat troublesome. But the scene is highly picturesque, accompanied by a peculiar impression of the possible o'ertoppling of the impending fragments. Several deep lateral chasms run alongst the broken fragments; and a similar rent of great depth, which, being almost covered with heather, might prove dangerous to the unwary observer, seams the hill near its summit, where there has been comparatively little displacement otherwise. To the east of this rugged space there is a large detached block of rock upon the beach, a well-known landmark, called "The Cock of Arran;" but decapitation has impaired the resemblance it used to bear to a cock flapping his wings.

6. Loch Ransa, an inlet of about a mile in length, by from half a mile to a mile in width, is one of the scenes of most sequestered attractiveness in Arran. It is encompassed by the imposing serrated mountain ranges, from which rise the peaks of Caistael Abdael and Caim na Caelleach, pierced by two narrow glens—Glen Chalmadale and Eis na Bearradh—and flanked on the south by the elegant cone of Torrnaneidneon. A promontory projects from the south shore, which encloses an inner basin of great depth. On this neck of land stands the shell of one of the royal castles, erected in the fourteenth century. It consisted chiefly of two square towers connected by high curtains. Loch Ransa is only five or six miles from the coast of Cantyre, on which the massive old castle of Skipness is conspicuous. The loch is a favourite rendezvous of the vessels and boats engaged in the Loch Fyne fishery; and the bustle of departure of an evening, and of return with the spoils of the deep, and the operations of preparing the fish for market—for most part in a fresh state—and shipping them on board the attendant busses, contribute, during the fishing season, a peculiar interest to the otherwise retired spot.

7. The west and south coast, and to Lamlash, present less of continuous attraction than the portion between Brodick and Loch Ransa. Still there are several points of interest. The northern portion of the western coast slopes up from the sea, the cliffs attaining much of the same altitude as those on the corresponding part of the east coast. To the south, the cliffs

are lower. The whole line of coast is intersected by several fine valleys, as Glen Catacol, a little south of Loch Ransa, Glen Jorsa, towards the south of the northern or primitive division, and wider valleys along the Mauchrie and Black Waters, towards the north of the southern division of the island. The Cantyre coast, with Kilbrandon Sound between, diversifies the view.

On the shore, near Thunderguy, south of Catacol, two singular masses of rock will be observed, of peculiarly-contorted schist. One of the most picturesque mountain lochs or tarns, and partaking somewhat of the character of Coruishk, in Skye, is that of Corrie an Lachan, in a deep hollow, in the recesses of Ben Varen, east of Thunderguy. The steep encircling rocks which encompass it on all sides, except that towards the sea, are almost bare of vegetation. Ben Varen is in form like a long house with rounded roof, and on its summit are two of the Cyclopean walls, meeting at right angles, of granite blocks, already mentioned as characterising several of the mountain-tops of Arran.

At the village of Immachar, north of the Jorsa, there is a ferry across to Saddell, in Cantyre, the distance being only between four and five miles.

Between the mouths of the Mauchrie Water, and of Shiskin, as the valley along the Black Water is called, an eminence rises, called King's Hill, which presents to the sea a range of bold cliffs, chiefly sandstone, but at Drumodhuin Point of basalt, and there distinguished by the regularity of columnar arrangement. This hill is crowned, on its landward side, by an immense rampart of loose stones, having a gateway, and on the seaward front it is pierced by a number of water-worn but dry caves, of which the largest, which is upwards of 100 feet in length, by about 50 in width and height, is called the King's Cove, from having for some time afforded shelter to the Bruce, when, after taking temporary refuge in the Island of Rachrin, on the Irish coast, he sojourned for a time in Arran, concerting measures for his adventurous but ultimately triumphant descent on the opposite shores of Carrick, in Ayrshire. Stone slabs on the floor doubtless have borne the gallant monarch's weight, and the smoke-grimed roof, and the remains of bones of animals, are in all probability referable to that anxious period of his stormy career. Rude scratchings on

the walls, in which patient decipherers detect representations of objects of the chase, may have been traced by some of the royal attendants. The fond credulity of the natives, however, ascribe them to the Fingalian era. The smaller caves are dignified by the names of the King's Larder, Stables, &c. The cliffs of the cave are appropriately embellished with the royal fern, *osmunda regalis*, a plant which, in Arran, has attained the great growth of twelve feet.

In the district about Mauchrie and Shiskin are several tall upright slabs of stone, or obelisks, some of them from fifteen to twenty feet high, and several stone circles and cairns, most likely sepulchral memorials of a distant age. Of these last, there is a very large one near the mouth of the Vale of Shiskin, and a little further up the glen there is a circular mote hill. A good road leads across the country from Shiskin to Brodick.

8. From the mouth of the Black Water there is a ferry to Campbelltown, distant about twelve miles. About the centre of the south end, and itself the most southerly point of the island, a range of basaltic columns, called the Struey Cliffs, rises to a height from 400 to 500 feet. The intermediate shore between these and the Black Water is rocky. On a round and isolated eminence, called Tor Chastel, connected with the adjoining land by a narrow neck, there are traces of a round structure, probably a Danish burgh, and also of defending outworks; but Mr. Landsborough mentions having been told that human bones were, several years ago, discovered in considerable quantities between the connected walls. The only other instance of the kind that we have heard of is at Kyle Skou, on the west coast of Sutherlandshire. A fertile tract of country, west of the Struey Rocks, is watered by the Sliddery and the Torlin, and a number of minor streams, mostly with deep water-courses. Southend harbour, near the mouth of the Torlin water, is a very curious natural harbour, formed by trap-dykes, which are so disposed as to compose sides, quay, and breakwater. Trap-dykes abound in this quarter. At the commencement of the Struey cliffs* is a large excavation called the Black Cave, which is about 160 feet in length, about half that height, and about one-fourth in breadth. The floor inclines upwards, and

* Several rare plants are to be met with on the Struey Cliffs, as *Lathyrus Sylvestris*, *Althea Officinalis*, *Carlina Vulgaris*, and *Inula Helenium*.

there is an orifice at the inner end of the cave. Bennan Head forms a continuation of the Struey Rocks.

9. At the south-east corner of Arran stands an old square keep—Kildonan Castle. Off shore lies the island of Pladda, on which there is a lighthouse. An extensive plain occurs at Kildonan. It is traversed by the Glen of Auchinhew, and on the course of the burn by which the latter is traversed, there is a waterfall—Essiemore, or the Great Fall—of upwards of 100 feet in depth, which plunges into an amphitheatre surrounded by lofty rocks composed of sandstone, with overlying masses of greenstone and basalt.

10. North of Kildonan, a noble range of precipices, called the Dippin Rocks, rise perpendicularly from the sea to a height of 300 feet. A somewhat hazardous footing can be found along the base of the cliffs. The dash of the waves close at hand, and the screams of the wild fowl overhead, conspire to try the nerves of the adventurous wayfarer. At one point, a stream issuing from the brink is projected beyond the base of the rocks, forming an arch of whitened spray well known to mariners.

Glen Ashdale, a fertile and beautiful glen, runs up from Whiting Bay. Towards the upper extremity of the glen, the burn course is lined by walls of basalt, and the stream forms two successive cascades, the lower about 100 feet, and the upper about one-half that height; and still further up, the glen terminates, almost at the summit of the hills, in a range of rude columnar cliffs.

Next in succession comes Lamlash Bay, which completes the round of the coast.

Arran presents many attractions for a summer sojourn, as well as to the mere tourist. There is capital deep-sea fishing and good trouting in the streams, and there is plenty of game, excellent bathing and boating; while it must be apparent that the scenery is of no common order, and the variety very uncommon; while to the geologist, and general student of natural history, there is perhaps no other district equally inviting. There are lodgings to be had in several spots, and there are small inns at intervals all round the coast. Brodick, in particular, is a very favourite sea-bathing quarter, and there is a constant intercourse by steam to the different ports on the Clyde.

AILSA.

11. Ailsa Rock, or the Perch of Clyde, forms an interesting day's excursion from various points on the Firth. This insular mass of columnar trap rises abruptly from the water to a height of 1100 feet. Its base is irregularly elliptical, 3300 by 2200 feet, and the form of the rock varies from that of an obtuse to an acute cone, according to the position of the spectator. The colour of the rock is gray, which, mingled with the green of its vegetation, exhibits the columnar structure to peculiar advantage. The columns are not so nicely regular as those of Staffa, but their effect from a little distance is quite perfect, and by many this rock is considered a grander specimen of the kind than the other well-known object. On the north-west the appearance is particularly striking. This side is almost perpendicular, and composed of successive tiers of columns of great magnitude, both as to length and diameter. The view is especially fine, where a cave, with a grassy acclivity above, forms the centre point. On the southern face there are ruins, still entire, of a square tower of three single and vaulted apartments, on a terrace at about 200 feet above the sea. Thus far the ascent is easy, but above becomes very steep, at times among broken fragments of rocks piled together, their interstices filled with prodigious nettles and other rank plants. Large patches of wild-flowers are met with, remarkable for their uncommon growth, and the rich profusion of their showy petals. Innumerable flocks of sea-fowl, with rabbits and goats, tenant this lonely isle.

SECTION EIGHTH.—BRANCH B.

KNAPDALE AND CANTYRE.

FROM FORT-WILLIAM TO CAMPBELLTOWN AND THE MULL OF CANTYRE BY LAND ALONG THE COAST.

District of Appin, 1.—Berigonium, or Dun Mac Snichan, 2.—Ardchattan Priory, 3.—Connel Ferry to Loch Fyne and Lochgilphead, 4.—Lochgilphead; Knapdale; Loch Swin; Eilan More, 5.—Cantyre, west side, 6.—Religious Edifices, styles and ages of, 7.—Campbelltown, 8.—Seat of early Scottish Monarchy, 9.—Mull of Cantyre; Dunaverty Castle; Sanda Island, 10.—East side of Cantyre; Sadell Abbey; Castle of Aird, 11.—Skipness Castle, 12.

1. Fort-William to Oban.

	Miles.	Miles.
Corran Ferry	9	—
Appin District: Ballachulish Ferry	5	14
Inn on both sides—best on south.		
Durer—neat small inn	7	21
Portnacrosh Inn—public house	4	25
1½ mile from P. cross-road to Port Appin and Aird strikes off to the right, and ½ mile farther on the road to Crekan Ferry on Loch Creran, and thence to Fasnacloich, at the head of the Loch Creran, ten miles from Portnacrosh, branches off on the left. At Port Appin is a respectable public-house, and two small ones at Crekan.		
Shian Ferry (one mile wide)—Good public houses	4	29
Connell Ferry on Loch Etive, narrow and rapid Strait, not a quarter of a mile wide. Inns on both sides	5	34
Oban	5	39

2. Fort-William to Lochgilphead.

To Connel Ferry—(see preceding table)	—	34
Lorn—South Connel Inn to Clegie, west end of Loch Nell—(small inn)	6	40
Kilininver—(small public-house)	5	45
Kilmelford—(do.)	7	52
Barbreck	8	60
Kilmartin	8	68
Lochgilphead—(inn)	8	74

Lochgilphead to Inverary 16 miles.

3. Knapdale.

Lochgilphead to Kiels on Loch Swin, where the ferry to Lagg, in Jura (8 miles across), is usually taken; *two inns on the way*, Bellanoch and Tay-Villich dividing the distance into three nearly equal stages	17
Lochgilphead to East Loch Tarbert	12½

4. Cantyre.—(1.) West Side.

From the village of East Tarbert to Whitehouse, near which is the junction with the road along the east side of Cantyre (a good inn)	5½	—
Clachan public-house	4½	10
Clachan, Tayanloan, public-house (good)	6½	17½
Clachan, Barr, public-house (do.)	6½	24
Drummore, or Beallachantuie (do.)	2½	26½
Mackerihanish Bay, north end of, small public-house	4½	30½
Campbelltown	6½	37
Mull of Cantyre	10	47½

4. Cantyre.—(2.) East Side.	Miles.	Miles.
Campbelltown to Sadell (good public-house)	10	—
Carradell (public-house)	4	14
Grogport (do.)	4	18
Clunaig (do.)	10	28
Skipness Castle and village, 2 miles (public-house).		
Clunaig to East Tarbert, across the hill—no road from Skipness	10	38

N. B.—The roads throughout this excursion are good, though very hilly; and no conveyance but a horse and cart can be had, except from Oban, Lochgilphead, and Campbelltown.

We would strongly advise the pedestrian tourist to undertake this excursion along the coasts of Argyleshire, as the scenery is everywhere varied and beautiful, the road being midway between high mountains and the islands in the Western Sea, the districts pretty well peopled, the inns clean, if not elegant, and remarkably cheap, and the interest of the way being constantly kept up by the recurrence, at every other fifth or sixth mile at least, of some old castle or chapel, with its sculptured tombs and crosses; while it is within the power of the traveller, at several points, as he may incline, to end his journey by going on board a steamer, or to vary it by breaking off into the higher and wilder districts of the interior. The coast line is, of course, better cultivated, and in some places well wooded; and what they want in height, the hills make up by roughness and variety of form; and between them there are innumerable large tracts of beautiful pasture and copse ground. Owing to the superabundant moisture of the climate, however, the surface is always damp and boggy, and we would therefore warn the tourist to keep to the main road, and not to attempt cross-cuts, however tempting they may be in apparently shortening distances, unless he is accompanied by a guide, an appendage which generally, in the Highlands, costs more than it is worth.

1. By *steaming* it from Fort-William to Corran Ferry early of a morning, the pedestrian could reach Ballachulish to breakfast; and then, if he does not mean to wait there a day, so as to visit the slate quarries, Glencoe, and the waterfalls at the head of Loch Leven (see Route 1.), which, if he has not previously seen them, he undoubtedly should do, he can proceed through the picturesque district of Appin—the soil of the loyal Stewarts, and one of the strongest retreats of Jacobitism, and still retaining much of Episcopacy—and reach either of the inns at Connel Ferry on Loch Etive by night. The inconvenience of crossing the successive ferries of Ballachulish on Loch Leven, Shian (across Loch Creran) and Connel Ferry, at Loch Etive, is compensated by the varied and striking scenery at all these points. Loch Leven is encompassed by towering alps, and the mountain screens on all hands, as seen from Ballachulish, are singularly grand. Loch Creran is encircled by chains of lofty graceful mountains, with a long stretch of low ground at the entrance,

and at Shian, the views are soft, cultivated, and wooded. The boundary chains of Loch Etive slope away on the south, but hem in the water more closely on the north. From the broken character of the coast, the landscapes at Connel are extensive and diversified, and some of the objects they present carry back the thoughts to the most remote antiquity. The chief local objects the tourist will have to attend to by the way, are:—1. Appin House (— Downie), situated in a beautiful park, descending in graceful undulations from the hills. 2. Castle Stalker, the ancient residence of the Stewarts of Appin, having the royal arms finely carved over the entrance gate. 3. Aird's House; and, after crossing the fine inlet of Loch Creran, which stretches ten miles from the main coast, (4.) Bercaldine Castle, an old castellated mansion, in part still inhabited, and commanding a magnificent view; westwards from which a beautiful plain, nearly six miles square, conducts to a ridge (Ardnamucknish) boldly projecting into the sea; at the foot of which stands (5.) the House of Lochnell (Gen. Campbell), and the ridge is crowned by a high observatory, which is often taken for a lighthouse.

2. As the road turns round towards Loch Etive, and opposite the Castle of Dunstaffnage, it passes under a magnificent set of cliffs, called the "Cragan Righ," or King's Rocks, formed of an extremely hard and singular conglomerate, composed of a great variety of primitive and trap rocks, which, as Dr. Macculloch slyly remarks, is much admired by the English from its resemblance to plum-pudding; and about 400 yards in advance, and to the north-west of these cliffs, is the little double-topped rocky eminence, on which conjecture has for a long time back been pleased to fix as the site of Berigonium, the ancient Pictish capital, already described, page 96. At the base of the cliff is a small burying-ground and ancient cell, or chapel, from which the "street," or paved way communicated most likely with the sea-shore opposite Dunstaffnage, or with the vitrified site, and which, therefore, was, in all likelihood, only a modern *procession* road to the religious sanctuary.

3. Before quitting the north side of Connel Ferry, the ruins of Ardchattan Priory, four miles up Loch Etive, and described, page 93, well merit attention. Ardchattan is a name familiar and interesting to all acquainted with Highland annals. The Priory church (which only measures twenty-two yards by nine) was built by Duncan M'Coul, or Macdougal of Lorn (of the

family *de Ergadia*), in the thirteenth century, and burned during Montrose's wars by Colkitto. Little of it is now left except the entrance gable. Robert Bruce held a parliament here—one of the last at which the business was conducted in the Gaelic language. The Prior's house is still entire, and is the residence of the proprietor, Mr. Popham of Ardchattan. It adjoins the south-west corner of the church, and behind it, to the west and north-west, the other monastic buildings appear to have stood. The church was not cruciform, nor does it appear to have been interspaced by piers and pier arches. There is a square ambry entire at the south-east corner. Among the office houses may be traced indications of the old buildings, with two doorways, one of them with several mouldings and of a very obtuse arch. This Priory was likely dependent on that of Beaulieu, as to which see page 386; and Mr. Howson (Cambridge Camden Society Transactions) describes the shaft of a stone cross within the church, with extremely grotesque figures, enclosing a galley between them, and composing a heraldic group, with a mutilated inscription of the fifteenth century. There is only one inscription which Mr. H. was unable to decipher, or to recognise the character in which it is written; and if Celtic, it is probably the only one of the kind, though the Highlanders generally imagine that all the inscriptions are in the Gaelic language!

4. Regaining Connel Ferry, either by returning from Ardchattan, or going round by the head of the loch to Taynuilt inn, which will give a view of its inner reaches, and the grand assemblage of mountains around Ben Cruachan, so minutely described by Dr. Macculloch (see also ante, page 93), our route next winds in among the trap hills of Lorn to Lochs Nell and Feochan, from the lower end of the latter of which at Kilininver a branch road leads to the slate quarries of Siel and Easdale, distant three or four miles; and while here, Loch Craignish, with which Dr. Macculloch was so enamoured, should be visited, but it is inferior to Loch Swin, afterwards noticed. A succession of beautiful pastoral valleys, with rocky gorges and overhanging luxuriant copses, leads to Kilmelford,* whence a more open and cultivated district extends to Lochgilphead. At Carnassary, nine, and Kilmartin eight, miles from Lochgilphead, are the shells

* Most interesting associations of the primary schists and trap-rocks, banded together by intersecting veins of basalt, occur all along this road.

of the main keep and turrets of the castles of these names; and at Kilmichael Glassary, within four miles of the village, there is a sculptured slab cross, and also extant the cell of the old county prison. Instead of pursuing the public road, the tourist would be pleased with a short side excursion from Kilmelford inn to Loch Avich, and the lower parts of Loch Awe, which he will cross at Port-na-Sherry, distant about twelve miles. The former is popularly believed to be the "*Loch Launa*" of Ossian; and its picturesque islet and castle to be "Innislauna." In Loch Awe, the Priest's Isle, with the ruins of the ivy-clad island castles of Ardconell and Feonahan, and the house and grounds of Eriden (one of the residences of Niel Malcolm, Esq., a most extensive proprietor in Argyleshire), are all well worthy of being seen; and the main southward road can be regained at the lower end of the loch. Or, if it is wished to reach the banks of Loch Fyne, a rough bridle-road will be found from Port-na-Sherry, over the hills to Port Cregan, near the deserted Forge (eleven miles), which is intersected near the middle at Braelechan by a district road, leading northwards to Inverary. The ascent is easy (about 500 feet), but the descent is remarkably steep towards Loch Fyne, commanding, however, a most unrivalled view of the great clusters of peaked mountains towards the east and north.

5. Lochgilphead is a very considerable village near the south end of the Crinan Canal. It contains a population of about 2500. The Bishop of Argyle and the Isles has his diocesan chapel here, and his residence in the neighbourhood.*

The long peninsula, which stretches far to the south from the Crinan Canal, is distinguished into the districts of north and south Knapdale, lying to the north, and of Cantyre, to the south, of East and West Lochs Tarbert, which are separated by but a very narrow isthmus. On the east side of Knapdale, along the route to Tarbert and Campbelltown, the shores are low, rocky, and uninviting. Still, a good deal of wood in several places clothes the acclivities of the hills, along which the road conducts by the sea-shore for about twelve miles. The hill Sliabghaoil, three miles beyond Inverniel Kirk and House, is regarded as the locality of the death, by a boar, of Ossian's Brown Diarmid. Urins, Mucroy, and Barmore House are after-

* There is a strong attachment to Episcopacy in many parts of Argyleshire. It escaped us to mention, for the information of English tourists, that there is an Episcopal service at Oban, and the erection of a chapel is in contemplation.

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wards passed on the way. Half a mile beyond the latter, a road branches off to East Tarbert, distant two miles and a half. Approaching West Loch Tarbert, the way leads through a beautiful strath called Glen Ralloch. In crossing the isthmus, the sandy shore should be avoided.

But before passing into Cantyre, the western districts of Knapdale well deserve special notice. Knapdale will, on a reference to the map, be observed to be indented, in resemblance to the rest of the Argyleshire coasts, by two inlets of the sea, Loch Swin and Loch Killisport These exhibit some fine scenery, that of the former especially, which is about nine miles in length, being towards its upper extremity of remarkable character. It forks at the head into three different branches, and is otherwise indented, particularly on the west at Tayvillich, near the branching off of these terminal inlets. It is encompassed towards this upper extremity by hills high and abrupt, the promontories being of the like character, with rocky shores, and here richly enveloped in natural and planted wood to the water's edge. The road from Lochgilphead to Kiels—where there is a well-regulated ferry to Lagg in Jura, eight miles wide, a distance of seventeen miles, divided into three short and nearly equal stages by two inns at Bellanoch and Tayvillich—runs along the tract intervening between Loch Swin and the Sound of Jura. On the adjacent heights are the remains of two or three forts or towers, but the loch is hardly seen from it, except at Tayvillich. To examine Loch Swin, and the objects of interest along its shores, the plan is to deviate from the Kiels road, which itself strikes off from the road from Lochgilphead to Crinan, at Bellanoch, five and a quarter miles from the former, at a point about one and a quarter miles past Bellanoch, and to go on as far as the village of Kilmichael Lussa, at the manse of North Knapdale (ten miles from Lochgilphead), and there take boat. About four miles further down the east side of the loch, the shell remains pretty entire of Castle Swin or Sueno, a royal castle, and a place of great strength and age. It forms a small square, divided into two compartments, and having two round corner towers on one side. On the opposite side, at Tayvillich, in a deep recess or bay, are the ruins of another stronghold, and on the coast the mansion house of Taynish (M'Donald). Colkitto, during Montrose's wars, had his boats carried across from Tayvillich to the Sound. On this occasion an arrow was dis-

charged at his party from the walls of the castle, which so exasperated the fiery Scoto-Hibernian, that he vowed that he would not leave a bull to bellow, a Campbell to hollow, or a M'Niell to leap (a peculiar attribute it would seem of them) in all Knapdale—a threat which he pretty faithfully carried out. This portion of Knapdale was at one time a territory of the M'Niells.

On Eilan More, one of those islets off the opening of Loch Killisport, are the remains, singularly entire, of a small chapel and vaulted cell, with a sarcophagus, having the figure of a priest, in his cope, sculptured on the lid, with elaborate and beautiful tracery about it, supported by four grotesque figures. This *sacellum*, Mr. Howson remarks, is nearly the most curious place he ever saw. It is divided into two apartments, each about five yards by four, the western one having been the dwelling of the priest or hermit. The windows and doors are Norman shaped, rude, and very small, as they also are at the associated chapels of Kiels and Kilmory. Another plain stone coffin is seen, not far from the chapel, along with the remains of a cross. There are the fragments of another cross on the summit of the isle, with intricate knots and patterns on one side, and a representation of the Crucifixion, with two female figures by the cross, on the other. (See also Macculloch's Letters, II., 89.) At the south end of the old chapel of Kilmorie, in Knap, on the adjoining coast, will be found one of the old rude figured crosses. On the opposite shore of Loch Killisport are the houses of Ormsay and Drundrishaig.

6. Cantyre, a district about forty miles long, with an average breadth of six miles, presents no clusters of high or impassable mountains; for, except around the Mull, the hills are low, undulating, and moorish, and rarely picturesque in their outlines; while, on the other hand, the quantity of cultivated land is greater than in almost any other part of the Highlands, unless, perhaps, we except the east coast of Caithness.

Separated from the rugged and wild bounds of Knapdale by Eastern and Western Lochs Tarbert, we would recommend the examination of the district in question to be commenced from the former across the little isthmus which divides them, and over which our readers likely know that more than one "royal bark"*

* "——— Ancient legends told the Gael
That when a royal bark should sail
O'er Kilmaconnel moss,

has already passed, and thence down by the west coast and across to Campbelltown, whence the Mull of Cantyre and the eastern portions of the district can be most conveniently visited. The roads on the whole are indifferent, and so full of ups and downs that the traveller will find himself best off on foot, or horseback, for the progress of a wheeled carriage is necessarily slow. Numerous little inns or public-houses will be found on the way, which are chiefly kept by matrons. East Loch Tarbert,* by which we have supposed the tourist to approach, is but a bay of Loch Fyne, and its shores are about the most barren, lifeless, and forbidding (for the bare rocks even want the size and height which would give them grandeur of character) that can be conceived; but after the frowning walls of old Castle Tarbert (built by Robert the Bruce as a watch tower against the Irish), and the straggling houses of the little fishing village below, with its fleet of herring boats, and a set of rough hillocks and knolls, among which little patches of corn land have been gained from a black boggy soil of the Kilmaconnel isthmus, which is not a mile wide, are passed—the stranger finds himself once more descending for half-a-mile towards the west coast, along the margin of a more open sea-loch, the banks of which are clothed with herbage of the richest and greenest hue, and embellished with occasional woods of birch and Scotch firs, and very valuable wide-spreading oak copses. The shores are low, but skirted with numerous promontories and islets fringed with wood; and here and there, rising above the general copse covering, are a few clumps of large and stately ash and beech trees. A sombre gray tone of colouring, however, rests upon the scenery, especially as brown heather and bare rock everywhere overtop the woody region; and hence a bright calm sunny day is needed to give full life and cheerfulness to the landscape. The narrow isthmus between the lochs might be easily cut for a canal, but the western one is rather too shallow to warrant the expense. A pier has been formed at the west end for the use of the Islay steamers which usually land their cargo here, in communication with other steamers on East Loch Tarbert for Glasgow. Further on, as we attain the more

Old Albyn should in fight prevail,
And every foe should faint and quail,
Before her silver cross."—*Lord of the Isles.*

* See also the introduction to our account of Islay and Jura.

open sea-beach, directly exposed to the Atlantic storms, the trees dwindle down almost to the size of bushes, and, except around gentlemen's seats, skirt only the most protected slopes and burn sides ; but the agricultural zone here increases in breadth, beauty, and fertility ; and the views—which are bounded on the one hand by hills of moderate height, and on the other by the magnificent blue mountains of the Islands of Islay and Jura, the table-land of Gigha, and the dim outline of Rathlin Isle on the Irish shore—are filled up in the foreground by large corn-fields and wide natural meadows, on which numerous herds of cattle are constantly grazing. A smooth green plain, either of natural tufted sward or cultivated ground, but seldom exceeding half-a-mile in breadth, if so much, accompanies us thence all along the coast nearly to Mackerihanish Bay, and this plain, subsiding into a low sandy beach, is skirted next the land by steep banks and rocky cliffs, varying from one to two hundred feet in height. The plain's surface is also in a few places checkered by lines of detached rocky pinnacles and arches, which evidently at one time constituted islets, coves, stacks, and reefs in the sea, that must formerly have flowed up to them. At the bay just mentioned, a great change suddenly takes place in the character of the coast. A long sandy beach runs out into a shallow and a very dangerous sea, on which lines of white breakers are almost constantly dashing: the shore within is also quite flat and low, and from it a smooth valley, nearly two miles broad, but only forty feet above the sea-beach, extends across the country to Campbelltown, through which the ocean evidently in former times also passed, then detaching the southern portion of Cantyre into a separate island. The valley is now covered over with fine alluvial soil, every particle of which is highly cultivated, the crops of oats and barley in particular which it yields, being in no part of the country surpassed in quality and in length of straw. Barley, indeed, is the main article of produce, as the demand for it in Islay and Campbelltown (in the latter of which alone there are twenty-four distilleries for the manufacture of whisky) is very great.

The plain or valley just mentioned is called the Laggan or How of Cantyre, beyond which the southern portion of the peninsula rises in long wild chains of hills, composed of rough primitive rocks.

7. So far for the external aspect of the district referred to. Every one acquainted with the ancient Irish history, and that of the Dalriatic Scots, is aware that this territory was peopled at a very early period ; that the population was for ages more dense here than in most other parts of the kingdom ; and that it was exposed to very frequent descents and invasions, and perhaps to several considerable changes, or at least intermixtures of its inhabitants. In fact, its populousness is attested by the number of parishes into which it was divided, and the many old churches and burying-grounds which abound throughout the district. Every sixth or eighth mile, one meets with a ruined monastery, or an ancient chapel, with their accompanying little burying yards, all of which are completely filled with graves, and abound with carved monuments of high antiquity. The religious fanes themselves are of small dimensions, rarely exceeding twenty-five paces in length, and eight in breadth, and not above thirty feet in height ; they were neatly proportioned, though quite simple and devoid of ornaments, except a low round arched or early Norman altar window, with rounded door-ways, and a very humble belfry. Such are undoubtedly the remains of the most ancient chapels in this country, and they correspond in their style of architecture with that of the cathedral of Iona, which, though greatly superior in size to the ordinary parish churches, seems to be of the same age with them. They are almost in every case niched, both outside and in, with sculptured effigies of bishops, with their mitres, crucifixes, and pastoral rods ; or of warriors, with their rude galleys, hounds, broadswords, and battle axes. High, upright stone crosses, of precisely the same slaty substance as those interspersed among the ruins of Iona, and all believed to have been brought from that holy isle, generally line the approaches to the old Cantyre churches, or occupy a prominent situation in the market-place of its villages. The rude figures represented on these crosses are all evidently carvings of the same era ; the old Saxon character is solely employed in the lettering of them, and although few of the inscriptions are now legible, one seldom fails in making out the initial Latin words, "*Hæc est crux*," &c., with which they all commence. Time, with the gray lichen and long wiry maiden's-hair moss, have partially obliterated those inscriptions ;—while the nodding cotyledon and climbing fumatory depending from the old ruined walls of the chapels,

add much to their venerable, but now desolate appearance. Their names are all of well-known Celtic saints, and bring back to memory the days of Columba, whose disciples they are said to have been;* and another class of still older antiquities, also in every direction, presses upon the traveller's attention, so as to stamp the country with the classic interest of one which had been an early cradle of mankind, and the nursery, perhaps, of many renowned tribes. All along the coast, and especially on the sides next Ireland and the Hebrides, a series of *watch* or *ward hills* occur, the different links in the chain of which may often be detected in the tabular or conical rocks which present themselves along the shores, with walled structures round their tops, often vitrified, and with which signals were exchanged from similar stations on the acclivities and summits of the higher hills. Lines of such beacons, some of them with very significant names may be traced around the shores and across the country.

As to the ecclesialogical antiquities, we may submit the following summary of Mr. Howson's laborious and learned researches, as contained in the papers already alluded to, published by the Cambridge Camden Society, Parts ii. and iii.—1*st*. The buildings of St. Columba's days, and of the Culdees in general on this coast, probably down to the tenth century, seem to have been all of *wood*, or, as Bede calls it, "*more Scotorum, non de Lapide, sed de robore secto et arundine.*" Hence their ready destruction by the pagan Northmen. 2*d*. About the year 1000, Scandinavia became Christian, and thence the western isles, subject to the Norwegian crown, likely came under a uniform and regular submission to the Church—their bishops being for a considerable time consecrated at Drontheim, where an archiepiscopal see was fixed about 1150, with supremacy over Man, the Hebrides, Orkney, and the Faroe Islands. 3*d*. If *quoad sacra* territorial divisions existed prior to the commencement of the Scoto-Saxon period (1097) they were created under the private authority of bishops, hermits, or chiefs, rather than by public law; and although the *parochial* subdivision of the country existed under Malcolm *Caen More*, and was general in the *lowlands* of Scotland in the reign of Alexander II., yet it is

* In descending West Loch Tarbert, these interesting fanes are met in the following order:—1st. The Chapel at Tyanloan with the walls quite perfect. 2d. Killean or St. John's Church. 3d. Kilchenzie. 4th. Kilkerran or Campbelltown; and 5th. On the eastern coast, three miles from this town, Kilcouslan.

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probable that the thorough *parochial* system was not completed in Argyleshire till a comparatively late date; for even the Scoto-Saxon policy, of having justices and sheriffs made for the isles, was not carried into effect till the reign of James IV. 4*th*. The parishes were named after the most distinguished Celtic saints, whose chapels existed in the several districts; and particular families or clans seem, in some instances, to have had *patron saints*, as they had tartans and clan badges—another proof of the modern era of the parochial divisions. 5*th*. Romanesque towers and Norman windows and archways are not to be taken here as of the same antiquity with such styles in England; and although the Abbey of Sadell was founded about 1150, and there may be a very few other buildings in the shire of as early a date, as, for instance, the four chapels of Kilkerran, Kil Michael, Kil Chouslan, and Kil Coivin, all now within the parish of Campbelltown, and all of which are mentioned in title-deeds engrossed in the Chartulary of Paisley, of dates between 1250 and 1300, yet the remaining *parochial* chapels of Argyleshire, for the most part, were erected when the family *de Insulis* was at its height of power, and cannot be held as of higher age than the thirteenth century. In fine, Mr. Howson records "a general, though somewhat vague impression left on my mind by the Scottish buildings is, that they will be found to vary from the English, if compared in the order of chronological sequence, but to vary according to a different law. I think that the early Scotch Gothic is almost as self-consistent a style as the early English Gothic, and extremely similar; that the middle Scotch never worked itself so free from early forms as the decorated in England; and that the later Scotch exhibited, in many points, the character of a *return* upon the earliest Gothic."

8. The royal burgh of Campbelltown is a straggling but densely peopled town, containing about 7000 inhabitants. It stands at the head of a crescent-shaped harbour or bay, bordered on the opposite sides by hills, which, on the north, are bare, and not high, but on the south assume a bold and mountainous character, and are partially wooded. The harbour is commodious, affords excellent anchorage, being from six to ten fathoms deep, and sheltered by a bank or bar of shingle, connecting an islet called Davar, lying near the north, with the southern shore. Whisky is its great staple commodity; there

being no less than from 25 to 30 distilleries in the place, paying upwards of £100,000 a-year of duties. Its market-place boasts of the largest and most beautiful stone cross in the country, said to have been brought from Iona. Dr. M'Culloch's reading of the inscription on it is, "Hæc est crux Domini Yvari M. H. Eachyrna quondam Rectoris de Kyrecan et Domini Andræ nati ejus Rectoris de Kilcoman qui hanc crucem fieri faciebant." The patron saint here was Kilkerran or Cilciaran, by whom Christianity was introduced into Cantyre in the sixth century; whose cemetery and cave, with a castle of the same name, lies on the south side of the bay. Kilkerran Castle was fortified by James V., during his expedition in 1536, against the Macdonalds and other turbulent island chieftains. It is related that Macdonald, the owner, retook it, and hanged the king's governor over the wall, before the monarch's galleys had got clear of the harbour. The parish church occupies the site of another of Macdonald's strongholds.

9. Campbelltown is not a little interesting, as the original seat of the Scottish monarchy. The old name of the parish was Dalruadhain, from having contained the capital of the ancient or Dalreudinian kingdom, so called from *Cairbre Ruadh*, red-haired Cairbre, son of Conan II. King of Ireland, reputed to have headed the colony of Scots, who migrated from Ireland in the third century, and, by slaying Oscar, the son of Ossian, to have become undisputed possessor of Cantyre. Being driven back to Ireland, the Scots returned in the fifth century, under the conduct of Lorn, Angus, and Fergus, the sons of Erc. Erca, Lorn's daughter, is described as the grandmother of St. Columba, the apostle of the Highlands. On the death of Lorn, who had taken the northern division of Argyleshire, still called after him—Angus being supposed to have had Islay—Fergus united the former territory to his own, which consisted of the southern parts, and became the founder of the Scottish monarchy. His kingdom was bounded on the north by that of the Picts, of which Inverness is supposed to have been then the capital; and on the east by that of the Strathclyde Britons, whose capital was Balclutha, now Dun-barton, or Dun-briton. The houses of Fergus and Lorn subsequently long contended for the kingly power, but the former was at last triumphant; and in the ninth century Kenneth extended his dominions by the conquest of the Picts, previously much weakened by successive wars with

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the Saxons, Britons, and Norwegians, when the seat of monarchy was transferred to Forteviot in Perthshire.

10. The ride across to the Mull (ten miles) is cultivated and pleasing. There the country is rude, hilly, and uninteresting, excepting some parts of the coasts. In the cliffs are several caves, the frequent resort of tinkers or gipsies, and smugglers. The Mull is distinguished by a lighthouse. To the eastward is a pyramidal hill, with a precipitous seaward front, on which stood—for hardly a trace of it remains—Dunaverty Castle, one of the very earliest of the residences of the island kings, being that wherein Angus Og entertained the fugitive Bruce. It is nearly surrounded by the sea, and was protected by a fosse, crossed by a drawbridge, and the ascent was fortified by several walls. In 1647, a party of Colkitto's men, Montrose's Irish auxiliary, were besieged here by General Leslie. The garrison at length capitulated at discretion; but the general, drawing a nice distinction between the discretion of the Estates,—the expression used in the treaty,—and his own discretion, inhumanly ordered the whole, to the number of 300, to be massacred in cold blood; and their bones, to this day whitening on the beach, attest their tragic fate. Our road terminates at the ferry of Ballychastle, the communication with Ireland.

Sanda, an island not far from Dunaverty, was a place of rendezvous of the Scandinavian fleets. It stands about three miles off the shore, measures a mile and a half by half a mile, and contains the remains of an old chapel, in the burying-ground attached to which are said to moulder the bones of many Danish and Norwegian chiefs. In the Sound there are abundance of cod, and a variety of other fish along the coast.

11. The ride north from Campbelltown by the east side of Cantyre is pleasingly diversified, leading along the face of declivities by the sea, now open, now partially wooded, and at intervals conducting across fertile intersecting valleys, but in general the district is bleaker than the opposite coast. At the third mile are the ruins of the ancient church of Kilkouslan. About eleven miles on the way, we pass the ruins of the Abbey of Sadell, which was commenced in the twelfth century by the mighty Somerled, and finished by his son Reginald. Its length was 136 feet, that of the transept 78 feet, and the breadth 24 feet; and it had cloisters arranged in a square on one side: but there is little of any part remaining. Though they may have

been numerous, the religious buildings do not seem to have been of larger dimensions than the other monasteries and chapels of the county. The apertures of the windows are narrow, and appear to denote an early English character. Among the fallen crosses and carved grave-stones, full length effigies are still pretty entire of two of the old knights (Macdonalds of Sadell) in plate armour, with inscriptions in the Saxon character around them. The present family's tomb is also an elegant structure. Near these most interesting ruins are the new and old castles of Sadell, the latter a square keep, with pointed turrets and machicolated battlements, and consisting of a dungeon and three storeys of miserably small apartments,—the kitchen, also, though provided with a large vaulted chimney, being most wretchedly small. The whole is enclosed within a quadrangular court, and *inhabited* by several very poor families. Three miles farther on is the modern Torrisdale Castle. Crossing a considerable hill, a mile and a half beyond, are Carradell Kirk, and an insular vitrified fort, and one mile to the west the bridge and inn. On a rock overhanging the sea, and defended by a deep and broad ditch, are the remains of a Danish fort of some size, called the Castle of Aird, the outer wall of which is 240 feet long and 72 broad, and had been 6 feet thick, and 12 feet high. Carradell House is a picturesque residence, with an ample lawn. Six miles in advance, we pass the House of Cour, and five and a half miles past this we reach the Kirk of Clunaig and Corsaig House. Beyond them the cross-road strikes off to West Loch Tarbert, which it reaches at Stonefield House, about six miles from East Loch Tarbert Inn. That along the east coast is continued two and a half miles to Skipness village, bay, and castle.

12. Skipness Castle is an ample and imposing, and, though of great antiquity, a very entire structure, the most perfect and interesting in Argyleshire, with the exception of Kilchurn. Its outer wall, which is 7 feet thick and 33 feet high, measures 450 feet in circuit. At each of two opposite corners is a small projecting square tower. The main tower of four storeys stands within the wall, and at the north-east corner it is protected by a mid wall, forming an inner court, and is still inhabited. It had a regular warder's tower on the top, and platforms extended along the outer battlements for defence by bowmen; while the outer gate was protected by two splendid flanking towers and

a portcullis, worked in a small tower above it. The stone stairs in the main keep are inserted in the body of the wall, not in any turnpike, and there are no corner turrets, both proofs of great antiquity. Hard by, are the ruins of the chapel, till lately used as the parish kirk. It was a small but neat pointed Gothic structure, and besides several half-effaced tomb-stones, one very beautiful sculptured cross, once upright, still remains.

SECTION EIGHTH.—BRANCH C.

ISLANDS OF ISLAY AND JURA, COLONSAY AND ORONSAY.

East Tarbert; Isthmus of Tarbert; West Loch Tarbert, 1.—Sound of Islay; Port Askaig, 2.—General Description of Islay; Fertility; Productions; Cattle; Fish; Lead and Silver Mines; Whisky; Inhabitants, their Circumstances and Character; Villages; Coasts of Islay, 3.—Historical Sketch of the Kings or Lords of the Isles, 4.—Macdonalds of Islay, 5.—Antiquities; Castles and Forts; Macdonald's Guards; Destruction of the last gang of them; Dunes, or Burghs; Hiding-Places; Chapels and Crosses; Tombstones; Monumental Stones and Cairns; Tingwald; Relics, 6.—Hostile Descents on Islay, 7.—Port Askaig to Bridgend; Islay House, 8.—Sunderland House and Portnahaven, 9.—N. W. Coast; Cave of Saneg More; Wreck of the Exmouth; Princess Polignac's Birthplace; Loch Gruinart, 10.—Bowmore, 11.—Promontory and Bay of Laggan; Mull of Oe; Cave of Sloc Mhaol Doraidh; Port Ellinor; Laggavoulin; Ardmore; 12.—Jura; General Description; Animals; Antiquities, 13.—Corryvreckan, 14.—Colonsay and Oronsay; Monastery and Cross, 15.

	Miles.
East Tarbert to Carrick Point	2
Ardpatrick	10
Port Askaig	23
Bridgend or Islay House	8
Bowmore (3)	
Laggavoulin (15)	
Portnahaven	17
	60
Port Askaig to Feoline	1
Lagg	17
Kiels	8½
Tay-Villich	6
Bellanoch	6
Lochgilphead	5½
	44

1. A REGULAR steam-boat communication is now established from West Loch Tarbert to Isla and Jura. The Glasgow and Islay steamer calls twice a-week at Port Askaig. The new

steamer "Islay" arrives at Islay from Glasgow, doubling the Mull of Cantyre, every Thursday, and sails from Port Askaig in Islay, on Friday, to West Tarbert, returning to Bowmore the capital of Islay, the same evening. Generally, too, this boat makes a second voyage to Port Askaig and Tarbert on Saturday. She leaves for Glasgow, round the Mull of Cantyre, on Monday afternoon. On landing at East Tarbert, supposing the traveller proceeding from Loch Fyne, two comfortable inns will be found, situated in a picturesque, small, crowded, village, built almost entirely on a naked or barren rock, and manifestly depending more on fishing and other marine resources than on any agricultural capabilities. In the neighbourhood, to the eastward, is presented prominently to the stranger's eye, the interesting ruin of the Castle of Tarbert, the walls of which are still pretty entire, although large portions have fallen within the last three or four years; nor will he, on inquiry, be at a loss to have traditions respecting it rehearsed to him. The traveller bound for Islay leaves East Tarbert, and proceeds to West Tarbert, a distance of scarcely two miles, lying across the low isthmus connecting the peninsula of Cantyre with Knapdale, and which is said to have been formerly protected by two other castles similar to that at East Tarbert, one in the centre and another at the western extremity. Magnus Barefoot, of Norway, is reported to have had, in 1093, a formal cession made to him of the Western Isles, then already under his sway, by the Scottish monarch; and he is said, on that occasion, to have caused a galley to be transported with great pomp across the isthmus, that Cantyre might be brought within the letter of his treaty. At West Tarbert there is no village, but a pier or quay has been built for the accommodation of passengers, and the shipping of goods for the steam-packet. The sail down West Loch Tarbert, which is about ten miles in length, and bears all the appearance of a peaceful fresh-water lake, is a highly delightful one. Hills of moderate elevation slope gently from its waters, rich with woods and cultivated lands, and ornamented with numerous farmhouses and cottages, and handsome country seats and villas, presenting scenery peculiarly lively, picturesque, and diversified. The principal residences are Dippen Cottage, Stonefield House, Grassfield, Kilhammaig, and Kintarbet, on the east, and Escairt House, Dunmore, and Ardpatrick on the opposite side, almost all of which belong to

families of the name of Campbell. About midway, on the west, near Stonefield, is the village of Laggavoulin and Whitehouse Inn, and towards the lower extremity the Clachan or Kirkton and church of Kilcalmonell, and a little beyond, the hill of Dunscaith, on which are the traces of a vitrified fort. The sail across to Port Askaig, in Islay, is about twenty-three miles, On passing Ardpatrick Point, the appearance of the bleak, sombre, heathy hills of Cantyre and Argyle is quite uninteresting, and the passenger will feel no reluctance in being carried away from the coast. In the views in front, the lofty conical mountains, called the Paps of Jura, form conspicuous objects, picturesque in the distance, but loosing their interest on a nearer approach. Jura, as the vessel draws nigh, continues, for the distance of some miles, in seaman's phrase, to be "kept on board" off the starboard bow and quarter.

ISLAY.

2. The sound of Islay is in the centre about a mile in width, and is lined by abrupt but not very high cliffs. It is remarkable for the close correspondence of the opposing shores, and the great rapidity of its tides ; and the navigation is rather dangerous. On entering the Sound, a strong current is perceptible, which, in a spring tide, if it happens to be adverse, with any considerable strength of wind also a-head, will impede very considerably even the power of steam, while the cross and short sea raised by the current, may even create alarm to an indifferent sailor. The island of Islay now becoming " tangible to sight," presents no very interesting or promising appearance. The coast seems bleak and bluff, without rising into the dignity of real hill or mountain, and presenting little else than the stunted and heathy vegetation of Alpine scenery. Here the eye is more relieved by the scene presented in the offing of the Sound, which seems studded with a lively group of islands, being Colonsay, with its smaller tributaries. The landing-place of Port Askaig is soon made, where there is a secure haven and a good pier ; and a tolerably comfortable and commodious inn greets the passenger's arrival. After the dreariness which threatened the stranger's approach, he is surprised, on landing at Port Askaig, to find himself at once nestled securely among well-grown trees and planting ; the face of the hill above the

inn, and some of the adjoining grounds, which rise abruptly from the sea, being well clad with wood.

3. Islay is about thirty miles long by twenty-four in extreme breadth. On the south it is deeply indented by an arm of the sea, called Loch-in-Daal, extending about twelve miles in length, and terminated by the Point of Rinns on the west, and on the east by the Moille of Keannouth, or Mull of Oe. This opening has no great depth of water, but is much resorted to by shipping. About midway, on the east side, Loch-in-Daal widens out greatly towards the Mull of Oe, which is opposite the Point of Rinns, forming a capacious bay called Laggan. Port Askaig is situated about the centre of a high tract of micaceous schist. From either extremity of this tract, a broad ridge of hills of quartz rocks extends southward; on the east, to the Mull of Oe, and on the west, to Loch Groinart, not reaching much further than the head of Loch-in-Daal. The northern central portion is composed of fine limestone rock, disposed in rocky eminences or irregular undulations. An ample and fertile alluvial plain encompasses the upper portion of Loch-in-Daal from Laggan Bay, with the exception of a stripe of clay-slate, bordering the west side of the loch; and this level ground, which, where not cultivated, is covered with peat, extends in a broad belt, along the termination of the western hilly range, to that side of the island. The rest of the adjoining peninsula declines from the ridge of low hills which skirts the western coast, in fine arable slopes to the shores of Loch-in-Daal. The northern and western hills are of moderate height and easy inclination, and are covered with heath, pasture, and fern. Those on the east are more elevated and rocky. There is a great variety of soil throughout the island, but it is generally fertile and well cultivated. Islay, of all the Hebrides, is, beyond comparison, the richest in natural capabilities, and the most productive. Perhaps more than one half of its whole surface might be advantageously reduced to regular tillage and cropping. The facilities for improvement are great; and in no portion, probably, of Scotland, have these advantages of late years been more successfully cultivated; and a steady pursuit of the course of improvement is still in progress in Islay. This island is celebrated for its breed and numbers of cattle and horses. It belonged chiefly to Mr. Campbell of Islay and Shawfield, but is now under the management of

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trustees, and the estate is in the market, bond-holders and personal creditors having claims upon it to the amount of upwards of £700,000. The coast, especially about Portnahaven, abounds with fish. To the north-west of Port-Askaig, lead-mines were at one time wrought, and with success. The ore is said to have been unusually fine, and the late proprietor of Islay could use the rare boast of having a proportion of his family plate manufactured from silver found on his own domains. But the mines here have partaken of the fatality that seems incident to all mining speculations on the north and west coast of Scotland, and they have, accordingly, been abandoned for many years. Whisky is a great staple commodity of this island. Its distillation has for some years been carried on to a very large extent, and there has, of late, been a yearly revenue of fully £30,000 realised to government from distilleries in this island alone. More than the half of the grain producing this sum in duties is imported.

Islay is much exposed to winds, having little or no wood, except young plantations, and the climate is moist. The proprietors are generally alive to the importance of extending among the population the benefits of education. The Gaelic language is universally spoken throughout the island ; but, as is now the case in less open parts of the Highlands and islands, it seems rapidly giving way to the introduction of English. The habits of the population, with respect to industry and sobriety, are of late years materially improved. The nefarious and morally destructive trade of illicit distillation used to be carried on among them to a very great extent; but the introduction of legal distilleries, and the steady discountenance which this traffic has received from the present proprietors, have well-nigh put an end to it, and with it to many of its injurious consequences.

The population amounts to about 13,000, and the island comprehends three parishes, Killarrow, Kilchoman, and Kildalton. To these there have been superadded, by the late Parliamentary grant, three government churches. Three new and substantial places of worship have also been erected by the Free Church party, since the Disruption, in 1843. A branch of the National Bank of Scotland has been established at Bridgend, near Islay House, the princely mansion of the late proprietor. Islay contains a respectable small town, Bowmore, situated on the east side, and towards the head of Loch-in-Daal,

and distant about three miles from Islay House, and eleven from Port-Askaig; and also two or three villages; as Portnahaven, at the Point of Rinns, the western extremity of the loch, distant seventeen miles from Islay House; and Port-Ellinor and Lagganmhoiullin or Laggavoulin, on the east coast, about thirteen and fifteen miles from Bowmore; and Port-Charlotte on the north-west side of Loch-in-Daal.

The coasts of Islay consist chiefly of low rocks and sandy beach. On the west there is hardly any anchorage, except in Loch Gruinart, an arm of the sea, stretching into the alluvial deposit which extends across from the head of Loch-in-Daal. There are several small bays on the east, but they are dangerous of approach, from sunken rocks. The coasts in general are nowise particularly interesting, except about Saneg, on the west, where there are several large caves, one especially, with a labyrinth of passages; and the Mull of Oe, where the cliffs rise to a great height, and in which there is another large cave, that of Sloc Mhaol Doraidh, on the farm of Grastle.

4. Islay is not a little interesting from the historical associations connected with the remains of antiquity which it presents, in the ruins of its old castles, forts, and chapels. It was a chief place of residence of the celebrated Lords, or rather Kings, of the Isles, and afterwards of a near and powerful branch of the family of the great Macdonald. The original seat of the Scottish monarchy was Cantyre, and the capital is supposed to have been in the immediate vicinity of the site of Campbelltown. In the ninth century it was removed to Forteviot, near the east end of Strathearn, in Perthshire. Shortly afterwards, the Western Isles and coasts, which had then become more exposed to the hostile incursions of the Scandinavian Vikingr, were completely reduced under the sway of Harold Harfager, of Denmark. Harold established a viceroy in the Isle of Man. In the beginning of the twelfth century, Somerled, a powerful chieftain of Cantyre, married Effrica, a daughter of Olaus or Olave, the swarthy viceroy or King of Man, a descendant of Harold Harfager, and assumed the independent sovereignty of Cantyre; to which he added, by conquest, Argyle and Lorn, with several islands contiguous thereto and to Cantyre. Somerled was slain in 1164, in an engagement with Malcolm IV. in Renfrewshire. His possessions on the mainland, excepting Cantyre, were bestowed on his younger son Dugal, from whom

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sprung the Macdougals of Lorn, who are to this day lineally represented by the family of Dunolly ; while the islands and Cantyre descended to Reginald, his elder son. For more than three centuries Somerled's descendants held these possessions, at times as independent princes, and at others as tributaries of Norway, Scotland, and even of England. In the sixteenth century they continued still troublesome, but not so formidable to the royal authority. After the battle of the Largs in 1263, in which Haco of Norway was defeated, the pretensions of that kingdom were resigned to the Scottish monarchs, for payment of a subsidy of 100 merks. Angus Og, fifth in descent from Somerled, entertained Robert Bruce in his flight to Ireland in his castle of Dunaverty, near the Mull of Cantyre, and afterwards at Dunnavinhaig, in Isla, and fought under his banner at Bannockburn. Bruce conferred on the Macdonalds the distinction of holding the post of honour on the right in battle—the withholding of which at Culloden occasioned a degree of disaffection on their part, in that dying struggle of the Stuart dynasty. This Angus's son, John, called by the Dean of the Isles, "the good John of Isla," had by Amy, great granddaughter of Roderick, son of Reginald, king of Man, three sons, John, Ronald, and Godfrey ; and by subsequent marriage with Margaret, daughter of Robert Stuart, afterwards Robert II. of Scotland, other three sons, Donald of the Isles, John Mor the Tainnister, and Alexander Carrach. It is subject of dispute whether the first family were lawful issue or illegitimate ; or had merely been set aside, for they were not called to the chief succession, as a stipulation of the connexion with the royal family, to whom the others were particularly obnoxious ; or, as has been conjectured, from the relationship of the parents being thought too much within the forbidden degrees. The power of John seems to have been singularly great. By successive grants of Robert Bruce to his father, and of David II., Baliol and Robert II., to himself, he appears to have been in possession or superior of almost the whole western coasts and islands. Ronald is said to have had the chief rule intrusted to him during his father's lifetime ; but on his death he delivered the sceptre to Donald, thereupon called Macdonald, and Donald of the Isles, *contrary*, it is said, *to the opinion of the men of the Isles.* From Ronald, who inherited large possessions on the mainland of Inverness-shire and in the Long Island through

the death of Ronald Rorison his mother's brother, are descended Macdonald of Clanranald, by Allan of Moidart, and Macdonell of Glengarry (by another Donald), rival competitors with Lord Macdonald of Sleat, descendant of Donald, son of John, for the chieftainship of the clan Coila. The Macdonalds of Keppoch are sprung from Alexander Carrach. Donald of the Isles seems to have taken up his residence in the Sound of Mull, while Islay, holding of him, fell to the share of his brother, John Mor, progenitor of the Antrim family. By marriage with the sister of Alexander Leslie, he became entitled to the estates and earldom of Ross, her niece having taken the veil. Donald, resolved to vindicate his claim, proceeded with a great force in 1411 to Aberdeenshire, defeating on his way the Mackays at Dingwall, and burning the town of Inverness. He was encountered at Harlaw by the Earl of Mar. After a bloody and doubtful contest, both parties retreated.

The inordinate power of these island princes was gradually broken down by the Scottish monarchs in the course of the fifteenth and early part of the sixteenth century. On the death of John, Lord of the Isles and Earl of Ross, grandson of Donald, Hugh of Sleat, John's nearest brother and his descendants became rightful representatives of the family, and so continue. Claim to the title of Lord of the Isles was made by Donald, great-grandson of Hugh of Sleat; but James V. refused to restore the title, deeming its suppression advisable for the peace of the country.

5. Towards the end of the sixteenth century, fierce feuds broke out between the Macdonalds of Islay and the Macleans of Mull. Sir Laughlan Maclean, in 1598, invaded Islay with 1400 men; but he was successfully opposed, at the head of Loch Gruinart, lying to the west of the head of Loch-in-Daal, by Sir James Macdonald, the young chief, his nephew, who had an inferior force of 1000 men; and Maclean was slain, with a number of his followers. Hereupon the inheritance of the Macdonals of Islay and Cantyre was gifted to the Earl of Argyle and the Campbells. Violent struggles ensued between these parties, especially in 1614, 1615, and 1616, when the Macdonalds were finally overpowered, and Sir James obliged to take refuge in Spain; but he was afterwards received into favour. The power of the Macdonalds in Islay, having thus passed into the

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hands of the Campbells, has never since been recovered, and their sway in Argyleshire has wholly disappeared.

6. The remains of the strongholds of the Macdonalds, in Islay, are the following. In Loch Finlagan, a lake about three miles in circumference, three miles from Port Askaig, and a mile off the road to Loch-in-Daal, on the right hand, on an islet, are the ruins of their principal castle or palace and chapel; and on an adjoining island the Macdonald council held their meetings. There are traces of a pier, and of the habitations of the guards on the shore. A large stone was, till no very distant period, to be seen, on which Macdonald stood, when crowned by the Bishop of Argyle King of the Isles. On an island, in a similar lake, Loch Guirm, to the west of Loch-in-Daal, are the remains of a strong square fort, with round corner towers; and towards the head of Loch-in-Daal, on the same side, are vestiges of another dwelling and pier.

Where are thy pristine glories Finlagan!
The voice of mirth has ceased to ring thy walls,
Where Celtic lords and their fair ladies sang
Their songs of joy in Great Macdonald's halls.
And where true knights, the flower of chivalry,
Oft met their chiefs in scenes of revelry—
All, all are gone and left thee to repose,
Since a new race and measures new arose.

The Macdonalds had a body guard of 500 men, of whose quarters there are marks still to be seen on the banks of the loch. For their personal services they had lands, the produce of which fed and clothed them. They were formed into two divisions. The first was called Ceatharnaich, and composed of the very tallest and strongest of the islanders. Of these, sixteen, called Buannachan, constantly attended their lord wheresoever he went, even in his rural walks, and one of them denominated "Gille 'shiabadh dealt" headed the party. This piece of honourable distinction was conferred upon him on account of his feet being of such size and form as, in his progress, to cover the greatest extent of ground, and to shake the dew from the grass preparatory to its being trodden by his master. These Buannachan enjoyed certain privileges, which rendered them particularly obnoxious to their countrymen. The last gang of them was destroyed in the following manner by one Macphail in the Rinns:—Seeing Macdonald and his men coming, he set about splitting the trunk of a tree, in which he had partly suc-

ceeded by the time they had reached. He requested the visitors to lend a hand. So, eight on each side, they took hold of the partially severed splits; on doing which Macphail removed the wedges which had kept open the slit, which now closed on their fingers, holding them hard and fast in the rustic man-trap. Macphail and his three sons equipped themselves from the armour of their captives, compelled them to eat a lusty dinner, and then beheaded them, leaving their master to return in safety. Macphail and his sons took shelter in Ireland. The other division of these 500 were called Gillean-glasa, and their post was within the outer walls of their fastnesses. These forts were so constructed that the Gillean-glasa might fight in the outer breach, whilst their lords, together with their guests, were enjoying themselves in security within the walls, and especially within the impenetrable fortifications of Finlagan.*

On Freuch Isle, in the Sound, are the ruins of Claig Castle, a square tower, defended by a deep ditch, which at once served as a prison and a protection to the passage. At Laggavoulin Bay, an inlet on the east coast, and on the opposite side to the village, on a large peninsular rock, stands part of the walls of a round substantial stone burgh or tower, protected on the land side by a thick earthen mound. It is called Dun Naomhaig, or Dunnivaig (such is Gaelic orthography). There are ruins of several houses beyond the mound, separated from the main building by a strong wall. This may have been a Danish structure, subsequently used by the Macdonalds, and it was one of their strongest naval stations. There are remains of several such strongholds in the same quarter. The ruins of one are to be seen on an inland hill, Dun Borreraig, with walls twelve feet thick, and fifty-two feet in diameter inside, and having a stone seat two feet high round the area. As usual, there is a gallery in the midst of the wall. Another had occupied the summit of Dun Aidh, a large, high, and almost inaccessible rock near the Mull. Between Loch Guirm and Saneg, and south of Loch Gruinart, at Dun Bheolain (Vollan), there are a series of rocks, projecting one behind another into the sea, with precipitous seaward fronts, and defended on the land side by cross dykes; and in the neighbourhood numerous small pits in the earth, of a size to admit of a single person seated. These are covered by flat stones, which were concealed by sods.

* Descriptive and Historical Sketches of Islay, by William Macdonald, A.M., M.D.

There are also several ruins of chapels and places of worship in Islay, as in many other islands. The names of fourteen founded by the Lords of the Isles might be enumerated. Indeed, most of the names, especially of parishes of the west coast, have some old ecclesiastical allusion. In the ancient burying-ground of Kildalton, a few miles south-west of the entrance of the Sound, are two large, but clumsily sculptured stone crosses. In this quarter, near the Bay of Knock, distinguished by a high sugarloaf-shaped hill, are two large upright flag-stones, called the two stones of Islay, reputed to mark the burying-place of Yula, a Danish princess, who gives the island its name. In the churchyard of Killarrow, near Bowmore, there was a prostrate column, rudely sculptured; and, among others, two gravestones, one with the figure of a warrior, habited in a sort of tunic reaching to the knees, and a conical head-dress. His hand holds a sword, and by his side is a dirk. The decoration of the other is a large sword, surrounded by a wreath of leaves; and at one end the figures of three animals. This column has been removed from its resting-place and set up in the centre of a battery erected near Islay House some years ago. Monumental stones, as well as cairns and barrows, occur elsewhere; and there is said to be a specimen of a circular mound with successive terraces, resembling the tynewalds, or judgment-seats, of the Isle of Man, and almost unique in the Western Islands. Stone and brass hatchet-shaped weapons or celts, elf-shots or flint arrow-heads, and brass fibulæ, have been frequently dug up.

7. In later days, Islay was distinguished by a visit from the French squadron under Admiral Thurot, in 1760, which put in in distress for provisions, for which, however, the Admiral honourably paid. Again, in the autumn of 1778, the notorious Paul Jones made a descent here. In the Sound he captured the West Tarbert and Islay packet. Among the passengers was a Major Campbell, a native of the island, just returned from India where he had realised an independence, the bulk of which he had with him in gold and valuables, and the luckless officer was reduced in a moment from affluence to comparative penury. Of much more recent occurrence was the appearance in Loch-in-Daal on 4th October 1813, of an American privateer of twenty-six guns, with a crew of 260 men. "The True Blooded Yankee," by which a crowd of merchant vessels which hap-

pened to be lying in Port Charlotte was rifled, and then set on fire, occasioning a loss estimated at some hundred thousand pounds. It is some satisfaction to know that this piratically named craft was subsequently made prize of and condemned.

The genuine Islaymen, are to this day remarkable for size and goodliness of person, and the body of clansmen who accompanied Islay to welcome her Majesty at Inverary in 1847 attracted peculiar notice.

8. We proceed now to conduct the reader through the island. Leaving the inn of Port Askaig, the road winds up a ravine or gully, for nearly a mile, exciting hopes that the wayfarer has really been conducted to fairy-land. These, however, soon cease; for, on making the summit of this ravine, the country again becomes bare and exposed, but presenting an appearance of abundant and rich vegetation, with marks of successful culture around. After traversing four or five miles, the country assumes a still improved appearance. The government church and manse of Kilmenny are passed on the left, and after about four miles more travelling, we reach the inn of Bridgend. Previous to this, however, the sea is seen on the opposite coast of Islay, flowing into the spacious Bay of Loch-in-Daal, which forms a very interesting and lively object, running straight inward from the Irish Channel, a distance, from the Point of the Rinns to Islay House, of at least twelve or fourteen miles. Before arriving at Bridgend, the appearance of the country, particularly to the left, strikes a stranger as rich, beautiful, and interesting, varied in surface, and forming principally a strath or glen, watered by a considerable stream, interspersed with thriving plantations of larch and other trees. From Bridgend, a pretty good view is had of Islay House, or, as it is here called by the natives, *The White House*. This mansion is surrounded, especially in front, by a very extensive and level lawn, with the ground gently rising, and well wooded behind. The house is on a large and princely scale, the pleasure-grounds and gardens extensive and embellished. Towards Bridgend, to the left of Islay House, stood formerly the village of Killarrow.

From Bridgend the touirst may easily make a short and interesting excursion to Loch Finlagan, which lies north-east from Islay House about five miles, and on an island in which are to be seen the ruins, as already mentioned, of a principal

residence of the Kings or Lords of the Isles. Between it and Islay House lies the place Eallabus, until lately the residence of the factor of Islay; an interesting and beautiful locality, and the native spot of John Crawfurd, Esq., the author of a "History of the Indian Archipelago," the "Embassy to Ava," &c.

9. If it be the object of the tourist to have a full local acquaintance with the fertile and interesting Island of Islay, certainly the queen of the Hebrides, we would recommend his taking, first, the road along the north side of Loch-in-Daal to the Rinns, or the Point of Islay stretching to the south-west. After passing along rather a bleak tract for two or three miles, he arrives at the Bay of Sunderland, bending gently inwards from the direct course of Loch-in-Daal; and passing along the beach for upwards of a mile, he may turn to the right, and, after a gentle ascent, will come unexpectedly in view of the mansion-house and grounds of Sunderland, (Mac Ewen, Esq.); and, if interested in rural and agricultural pursuits, he will reflect with pleasure that the beautiful scene now before him was, not many years ago, a bleak, uninteresting, and unpromising expanse of dry moss and heather, with scarcely even a spot of green sward on which to rest the eye. Returning again to the road, the traveller still proceeds close to the sea-shore, and along a fertile and tolerably cultivated stretch of country, passes the new and thriving village of Port Charlotte, and, some five or six miles onward, the road cuts across the extreme promontory of this part of the island, conveying him to the village of Portnahaven, a celebrated cod-fishing station, on the property of Mr. Mac Ewen of Sunderland, and containing about sixty slated houses, very picturesquely situated on a rocky nook of a wild bay, which is protected by an island in the offing from the stern blasts of the west. On this island a lighthouse has been built; and, perhaps no station on the whole coast of Scotland, if we except Cape Wrath, more loudly demanded this preservative measure to the shipping interests and to human life.

10. Leaving Portnahaven, the traveller can by a good road proceed along the north-west coast of the island, where he will find a fertile country, well cultivated, till he come to the church of Kilchuman; and, leaving it on the right, he had better still adhere to the line of the coast. Approaching

Kilchuman, and afterwards, for the distance of two or three miles, the soil becomes sandy and arid; but, removed from the immediate sea coast, it is mingled with a good fertile loam, which has been improved, on the best principles of husbandry, by the propietor of Sunderland, whose lands stretch downwards in this direction. Following the coast from Kilchuman, its appearance is striking and grand: perpendicular rugged rocks rising from the ocean, and rent by numerous chasms, among which are a series of curious caverns, arrest the attention.

Within the cave of Saneymore, the access to which is somewhat difficult, there is an inner cave, opening into successive passages, and narrow galleries with intermediate chambers, amidst which the reverberation of a gun-shot is quite overpowering, and the cadence of the notes of the bagpipe, varies from the faintest murmur to deafening loudness. It was near Saneymore that the tragical shipwreck of the emigrant brig Exmouth, from Londonderry for Quebec, occurred, on 27th April 1847, when all the passengers, 240 in number, with all the crew excepting three, found a watery grave. The appearance of the shore after the storm, strewed with fragments of wreck and dead bodies, and mangled limbs, is described to have been appalling and heart-rending beyond conception.

The reader may be interested to know that Ardnave, a handsome residence beyond Saneg, is the birthplace, we believe, at least the paternal residence, of Miss Campbell, Lady of Polignac, sometime prime minister of France.

Loch Gruinart, an arm of the sea, which the traveller will meet in his progress, is celebrated by Dean Monro, in his account of the Hebrides, for the number of seals which were caught or slain on the sand-banks which the recess of the tide here leaves exposed; but the *sport* of seal-catching here has long ago been forgotten.

The sands of Gruinart are celebrated in the traditional lore of the islanders, for the bloody conflict already mentioned, fought in 1598, between the Macdonalds and Macleans. The east side of Loch Gruinart presents merely a low sandy expanse of coast, after which it rises gradually into higher and bleaker hills towards the Sound of Islay and Port Askaig. From the head of the loch, a walk of four or five miles across the country conducts to Bridgend. The route here described,

from Bridgend till returning there, might be accomplished easily in a long summer or autumn day, with the help of a good Islay pony, and an equally hardy and active guide.

11. After resting at Bridgend, proceed we now to the *metropolis* of Islay, the village of Bowmore, lying about three miles south-west from Bridgend, and on the shore of Loch-in-Daal ; a continuation of tile-roofed cottages extending partially along the shore from Bridgend. Bowmore is of considerable size, containing a population of from 900 to 1200 inhabitants. It was commenced in 1768, and is judiciously and regularly planned ; but the plan has been but indifferently observed, houses being permitted to be erected of any size, shape, or material, suited to the means and views of the builder. A principal street, ascending a pretty steep hill, is terminated at the west by the school-house. From the hill behind, an extensive and beautiful view is obtained of Loch-in-Daal in all its expanse, of Islay House and the adjacent grounds in the distance, of the Rinns, and the district of Islay already described. Another wide and also ascending street crosses this at right angles, beginning at the quay, which is a substantial edifice, admitting common coasting vessels to load and unload, and terminates at the summit by the village and parish church ; a respectable building, of a circular form, surmounted by a neat spire. A third street runs parallel to the one first described, along which the houses present so poor an appearance as to leave the popular designation it has received in the village, of the "Beggar Row," far from being a misnomer.

12. Leaving Bowmore, the traveller proceeds southward, passing the church on his left, and continues to ascend by a gentle acclivity for about a mile. The road now slopes gently downwards, and inclines towards the wide expansive Bay of Laggan. But at the summit mentioned, a good view is had of the bleak promontory—a dead and dull mass—dividing Loch-in-Daal from the Bay of Laggan, tapering to the west, and terminating in a rocky point. On descending along the road to the Bay of Laggan, the traveller is struck with the appearance of its ample and spacious waters, bounded partly by rocks of rugged aspect and moderate height, and skirted all along its basis by a broad belt of beautiful sand. In this bay many shipwrecks have occurred, by seamen mistaking it, and bearing up for it, instead of Loch-in-Daal. Leaving the level of the

bay, a gentle acclivity is ascended, and the scene becomes less interesting, though still a pleasing variety of pasture and tillage is seen scattered around. On his right, the traveller has a considerable portion of the island cut off. This is the bluff Point of Keannouth, or, as it is more frequently called, the Oe. If interested in antiquarian pursuits, it may repay his labours here to turn off, obtaining a guide to bring him to the old castle or fort of Dun Aidh, built upon the extreme summit of the rock forming the western extremity of the Point of Oe. The scene is impressive and grand. The castle or fort is quite a ruin, but may be seen to have been a place of very singular strength in its day. The cave of Stoc Mhaol Doraidh, on the farm of Grastle near the Oe, is only accessible by boat, and with favourable weather. A huge pillar of rock guards the outer entrance, which is an archway in a wall of rock. From the space within, a low opening, only admitting a small boat, ushers into a spacious apartment with two recesses, all watered by the sea. Our road soon now attains the sea-shore, at a spacious bay, forming a safe and good anchorage, with a much better outlet than Loch-in-Daal, and well sheltered, especially from the north and west. Here a new village has been in progress for a few years back, named Port Ellinor, in compliment to Lady Ellinor Campbell of Islay.

A mile or two farther on, the road arrives at the small village of Laggavoulin, near which is the parish church of Kildalton, and the clergyman's residence, very picturesquely situated beside a rocky inlet of the sea coast, opposite to the remains of the round tower or burgh Dunnivaig. From Port Ellinor to Laggavoulin, the country presents a well cultivated and fertile aspect, and a surface obviously susceptible of great and advantageous agricultural improvements. Leaving the village just mentioned, the road keeps along the shore for two or three miles farther, when the country assumes rather a pastoral than an agricultural appearance, and is partially studded with birch, hazel, and other copsewood. Turning down into a small beautifully wooded promontory, forming one side of a still, peaceful inlet of the sea, is seen an elegant and spacious cottage, built by Mr. Campbell of Islay. Onwards a mile or two is the farm and house of Ardmore. From this quarter of the island, a good view is presented of the opposite coast of Cantyre—towards Campbelltown, and the Mull of Cantyre. In clear weather also,

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the Irish coast is discernible to the naked eye. From Ardmore, round the coast to Port Askaig, there is scarcely any object of interest to reward the toil of exploring it. But if it suits the tourist's time and purpose better than returning by Bowmore and Bridgend to Port Askaig, he can easily make the latter place, from Laggavoulin or Ardmore, in the course of one day, though at the expense of some bodily fatigue.

JURA.

13. This island is about thirty miles long, and tapers from the south, where it is seven or eight miles wide, till at the northern extremity it becomes only about two miles broad. It is, with the exception of a narrow border on the east side, a rugged and barren region. A series of steep and lofty mountains of quartz rock extend northwards from the Sound, shooting into four conical peaks, three of which, more elevated than the others, are, from their peculiar shape, called the Paps of Jura; the highest being about 2500 feet. These are, on their lower sides, covered with dusky heath, and higher up with broken fragments of stone and masses of rock; and with the exception of the embedding moss around these, they are there almost bare of vegetation. The west side is altogether wild and rugged, unfit for cultivation, and uninhabited. On the east the shore is low, and succeeded by gentle slopes, extending to the base of the hills. This coast is indented by several bays, and shoots out various points of land; thus presenting a somewhat pleasing appearance. It is intersected by numerous rapid streams, and the soil by the shore is poor and stony—on the declivity more or less clayey and spouty. There are two fine harbours on the east side, the southernmost protected by several small islands at the mouth: the entrance of the other is between two projecting points of land. Loch Tarbert, a long arm of the sea, at the middle of the west side, almost intersects the island. This inlet abounds with a variety of shell-fish. On the same coast there are quantities of fine sand, used in the manufacture of glass. The population does not exceed 800. The breeds of cattle and horses are hardy, but more diminutive than those of Islay. Though the name of the island is significant of the abundance of deer on it—Jura, from Dhuira, or

Dera—yet these animals are now not numerous, eagles and goats being the chief tenants of its rocky solitudes.

Several tumuli, remains of Danish burghs, and similar antiquities, are to be met with ; and in one or two places there are traces along the declivities of a wall that had been about 4½ feet high, with, at its lower termination, a deep pit about 12 feet in diameter, supposed to have been a contrivance for the capture of the wild boar, which, being driven along the wall, would be forced into the pit. At the north end of the Bay of Small Isles there are remains of a considerable encampment, which has consisted of three ellipses of some depth, hollowed out and embanked, and protected on one side by a triple line of defence with deep ditches, and by regular bastions on another, and having a mount of some size at the east end.

14. Corryvreckan, the strait between the northern extremity of Jura and the mountainous island of Scarba, possesses a wide-spread notoriety. It will be found described p. 76.

COLONSAY AND ORONSAY.

15. These islands are distinguished, next to Iona, by the most extensive remains of religious edifices of any of the Western Islands. They lie about north-west of the Sound of Islay ; are separated by a narrow strait, dry at low water, and extend together to a length of about twelve miles ; Oronsay, the most southerly, being much the smaller of the two. The Islands are named after St. Columba, and his companion St. Oran. The hills are rugged, but not high, and the pasture on the low grounds, particularly to the south, is remarkably rich. Rabbits abound in these islands. The population may amount to about 600. A Culdee establishment was founded in Colonsay, called after St. Oran Killouran. There exist on Oronsay the ruins, still pretty entire of a priory or a monastery of either Cistertian or St. Augustine monks, of which the abbey stood in Colonsay, but it has been completely destroyed. Both were founded by the Lords of the Isles about the middle of the fourteenth century. The priory measures sixty by eighteen feet. Adjoining it is a cloister of a peculiar form. It forms a square of forty feet externally, and twenty eight within. On each of two opposite sides are seven low arches, composed of two thin stones for columns, with two others forming an acute angle,

and resting on two flat stones placed on the top of the upright ones. The only remaining side has five small round arches. In a side chapel is the figured tomb of an abbot, Macdufie, anno 1539, and also a stone with a stag, dogs, and a ship sculptured upon it. A large and very elegant stone cross stands

Cross and Monastic Remains at Oronsay.

beside these buildings, and within the priory are various tombstones of warriors and others. Several tumuli exist in Oronsay; and on Colonsay are the ruins of several chapels, and within the memory of man those of St. Oran's cell were discernible, and there are also some monumental stones.

SECTION EIGHTH.—BRANCH D.

MULL, IONA, AND STAFFA.

Different Routes, 1.—Kerrera Island; Lords of the Isles; Alexander II.'s Expedition and Death; Haco's Invasion, 2.—Island of Mull, Appearance and Geology of, 3.—Iona or Icolmkill, Names, General Appearance, Size, Soil, Cultivation; Village of Threld, 4.—Antiquity of the Religious Edifices; Description of the Buildings in the order they are usually visited, 5.—The Nunnery and its Chapel; Isle of Nuns; Streets; Stone Crosses; Library and Chartulary, 6.—St. Oran's Burying-Ground and Chapel; Cathedral; St. Martin's Cross, 7.—Tombs; Druidical Circles; Features of the Culdee Worship, 8.—Innis Kenneth; Suggestions for further Accommodation and Facilities in Iona, *foot note*; Dr. Johnson, 9.—Staffa, General Appearance of; Caves; Eastern Side, 10.—Clam Shell Cave; Bouchaillie Islet; Grand Causeway, 11.—Fingal's Cave; Columns, 12.—Boat Cave; Mackinnon's Cave, 13.—Geological Phenomena, 14.—Grand Island View; Mingarry Castle, 15.—Tobermory; the Spanish Armada; Drimfin, 16.—Sound of Mull, 17.—Aros Castle, 18.—Situations and Style of the Hebridian Castles, 19.—Ardtornish and other Castles, with Churches, Crosses, and Tombs in Morven; Loch Sunart, 20.—Duart Castle; the Lady's Rock, 21.—Lismore; Auchindown Castle; Cathedral of Argyle, 22.—Return to Oban, 23.

"That man is little to be envied, whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona." . . . . . "Perhaps, in the revolutions of the world, *Iona* may be sometime again the instructress of the western regions."—*Dr. Johnson's Tour.*

	Miles.	
Oban to west side of Kerrera	4	
Ferry to Achnacraig, in Mull	7	
Craiganour	5	
Salin, near Aros	11	
Tobermory	8½	35½
Loch-na-Keal	4	
Laggan-Ulva	7	
Staffa	9	
Iona	12	
	59	

1. The above mentioned distances are quoted for the use of the tourist who can command time to go to Staffa and Iona through Mull, and is resolved to see everything more leisurely than he could do by the ordinary steamers. We are glad to inform him that the roads are now good, and passable for vehicles, throughout the route above indicated. Until within the last two or three years, the common course by steam was through the Sound of Mull to Tobermory, and thence westwards. Now, the outer passage by the south-west promontory or Ross of Mull, first, to Iona and Staffa, is preferred, returning by the

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Sound to Oban in the evening, and this trip is generally accomplished in about eleven hours. In summer it is almost a daily one by special steamers, but, besides, all the others on this coast rendezvous at Oban, and the tourist will find several boats going up the Sound, by which he can be landed at Tobermory and elsewhere.*

2. Kerrera forms a natural breakwater to the safe Bay of Oban, which is the securest haven on the west coast for vessels, whether intended for the northward voyage or the passage of the Caledonian Canal, and will be found already noticed p. 77. Kerrera was the place of rendezvous where Haco of Norway, in the year 1263, met his island chieftains, who, crowding with their galleys to assist him in his descent on the coasts of Scotland, augmented his fleet to 160 sail. Partly of Scandinavian origin and independent power, the Reguli, who ruled the Western Isles in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, were dangerous neighbours to the then unsettled kingdom of Scotland. Owing a slight allegiance to the Norwegian crown, in consequence of the conquests of Harold Harfager, King of Denmark, in the end of the ninth century, and of Magnus Barefoot of Norway, about 1090, and thus politically opposed to the Scottish monarchs, then harassed on all sides by the descents of sea kings and pirates of the north, it became the interest of our sovereigns to attach and win over, or subject to their dominion, the lords and chieftains of the Isles by every means in their power. Bribery and negotiation, open force and secret fraud, were resorted to; and even large tributes were offered to the King of Norway by Alexander II. if he would resign the sovereignty of the Isles. Irritated by the contemptuous replies of that monarch, Alexander at length declared his resolution of conquering the Danish settlements in Scotland, and boasted that "he would plant his standard on the cliffs of Thurso." He got no further than Kerrera with his fleet and army, when a fever seized him, of which he died; and the same hostile policy being pursued by the governors of his son

* One of the Messrs. Burns' steamers, and the "Maid of Lorn," belonging to another company, now sail once every week from Glasgow to Aros and Tobermory, besides the others which make the daily circuit of Mull. Should the traveller prefer it, he can first cross to Kerrera, then take the ferry-boat to Achnacraig in Mull, and proceed by land by Duart and Aros to the inn on the Island of Ulva, where he can procure a boat to the adjoining Isles of Staffa and Iona. The Skye steamer also proceeds through the Sound of Mull, and calls at Aros and Tobermory. These different boats also proceed to Salin, on Loch Sunart, giving easy means of visiting this long and fine, and hitherto little visited inlet.

and successor, Alexander III., then but a boy, and especially manifested in the attempts of the Earls of Ross, and other mainland chiefs, to conquer the isles, Haco roused himself, and sailed forth for the defence of his injured vassals. Sailing from Norway with the largest fleet that ever left his country's ports, it was at Kerrera he met the great body of the island chieftains, who thence accompanied him on the ill-fated descent on Ayrshire, where a tempest, and the Scottish host headed by the Steward of Scotland, and encouraged by the presence of their youthful sovereign, broke his mighty power and effected the consequent cession of the Hebrides to this country. Haco, from fatigue and anxiety, died on his way home at Kirkwall, in Orkney, on the 14th of December 1263.—(Chronicle of Man. Torfœus.)

3. In taking the outer passage the steamers usually skirt along the rocky iron-bound coast of Mull, in crossing to which magnificent views are obtained of its high dark mountains, and of the islands to the southward, and the varying chains of mountains on the mainland. The greater part of the south coast of Mull presents a dull wall of rock, unbroken save by the inlet of Loch Buy. Approaching the south-west, the shore becomes lower and more rugged, while white foaming breakers keep up the interest of the passage. Of Mull, we may remark in passing, that its surface is extremely uneven and mountainous; its soil is both deep and fertile, and it is thus better adapted for pasturage than Skye, to which island it otherwise bears a strong resemblance. The rapidity with which its rocks decompose, prevents the island from having much picturesque beauty, and the tourist will be but ill rewarded in searching for fine scenery at any distance from the coast. With the exception of the granitic promontory of the Ross, which is skirted by quartz rock, clay slate, and mica slate, the whole upper portions of this island consist of trap rocks, covering lias and oolitic deposits of stratified rocks, and which are visible in a comparatively small number of places at the base of the superincumbent mass. To the north of Aros and Loch-na-Keal, the surface of the country, though hilly and irregular, cannot be called mountainous. It presents everywhere, as remarked by Dr. Macculloch, that aspect so characteristic of trap countries, in the terraced forms rising by numerous stages from the shore to the highest elevation, which here seems not to exceed 1200 to 1500 feet. The southern and

western divisions of the island present the trap rocks similarly disposed; but in the districts of Gibon and Torosy they attain a much greater altitude; Ben More, the highest mountain, being 3097 feet; and the next to it, Benychat, 2294 feet by barometrical measurement. These mountains, on their western slope, are flanked by cliffs nearly 1000 feet high; and all round the island, columnar precipices of greenstone and basalt are to be seen on the shore, while the rocks in the interior are greatly concealed by rubbish and vegetation. Towards the east and south, the trap terraces shelve down to hills and cliffs of moderate elevation; the asperities of the shore being caused chiefly by protruding dykes and veins, of which there is an abundance in all parts of the island; but even these, although very hard, do not produce a coast line so rocky and indented as that formed by the primitive masses.

The eye is occupied alternately in scanning the face of the cliffs of Mull, and in tracing the faint outlines of Colonsay and Islay, and more near the peaked mountains of Jura and the island of Scarba, between which lies the whirlpool of Corry-vreckan.

4. *Iona*, or *Icolmkill*—Ey, the Island—Iona, Ithona, "the Island of the Waves"—Icolmkill—the Isle of Columba's (St. Callum's or Malcolm's) Cell—that "illustrious island which," as Dr. Johnson remarks, "was once the luminary of the Caledonian regions, whence savage clans and roving barbarians derived the benefits of knowledge and the blessings of religion," is situated about nine miles to the south-east of Staffa, and is separated from Mull by a narrow but navigable sound. Its history has now become nearly as familiar as its name; and it has been with truth observed by Dr. Macculloch, that the descriptions and remarks which have been published of it, have given it an importance to which it scarce possesses a sufficient claim, either from the simple extent, the beauty, curiosity, or even antiquity of its architectural remains, apart from the associations connected with them. "In any other situation," says the same author, "the remains of Iona would be consigned to neglect and oblivion; but, connected as they are with an age distinguished by the ferocity of its manners, and its independence of regular government, standing a solitary monument of religion and literature, the mind imperceptibly recurs to the time when this island was 'the light of the western world,' 'a

gem in the ocean,' and is led to contemplate with veneration its silent and ruined structures. Even at a distance, the aspect of the cathedral, insignificant as its dimensions are, produces a strong feeling of delight in him who, long coasting the rugged and barren rocks of Mull, or buffeted by turbulent waves, beholds its tower first rising out of the deep, giving to this desolate region an air of civilisation, and recalling the consciousness of that human society, which, presenting elsewhere no visible traces, seems to have abandoned these rocky shores to the cormorant and the sea-gull."

Iona is about three miles in length and one in breadth, being placed nearly in a north-easterly direction. The surface is low, rising into numerous irregular elevations which seldom exceed 100 feet. Its highest hill may be about 400 feet, and it is situated at the northern extremity of the island. Generally indented with small rocky bays and promontories, it, however, possesses at the north-western side a large plain, terminating in a flat shore, composed chiefly of broken shells. Another sandy and low plain, to the east, into which flows the Bay of Martyrs, where the bodies of strangers intended to be buried in the holy isle were received, contains the ancient remains and the modern village called Threld. The soil of this plain is light (chiefly sand and sea-shells), and is applicable almost only, and that by the assistance of sea-weed, to the cultivation of barley and potatoes, of both of which, however, it yields very abundant crops.

The upland is a chequered mixture of rock and pasture, with here and there a few ridges of corn ; it is chiefly occupied by black cattle, which, with the kelp prepared on the shores, and fish, in the taking of which the inhabitants display great industry, form the disposable produce of the island. The land, which till lately was held in runrig, is now divided into distinct crofts, and supports a population of about 500, the whole rental being £300. On the approach of strangers to the island, one-half of the inhabitants, bare headed, and with matted uncombed hair, especially the younger portion, collect in groups along the shore to gaze on their visitors, to tender their services in showing the ruins, and troops of children importune the purchase of their little stores of felspar and serpentine pebbles, which have ever been regarded as charms and choice relics of the isle. One unacquainted with the condition of the tenantry in the Hebrides generally will, perhaps, be disposed to express his astonishment at the uncouth and squalid appearance of

these people—sure tokens of the poverty and wretchedness under which they live.

5. Referring to our account of the early ecclesiastical history of the Highlands, and of St. Columba's mission (page 20 to 22), we may remark that a very remote antiquity was once assigned to the religious buildings, the ruins of which still impart so much interest to this distant island ; but the assertion had not the advantage of any probability to support it. If religious edifices were at all erected by Columba, when he took up his residence here towards the middle of the sixth century, they were composed, most probably, of no better materials than *wickerwork*, of which many churches in England, almost down to the Norman conquest, were formed, or they may have been stone-houses thatched with heather, examples of which are still to be seen in the Highlands.

The smallness of St. Oran's chapel, which is only 40 by 20 feet, the general poverty and rudeness of its style, with the perpetual repetition of the chevron moulding in the low circular arch which forms its doorway, points it out as the oldest building now standing, and would perhaps stamp it as of the Saxon age ; but it is in all probability of Norwegian workmanship. The chapel of the nunnery is the next in order of antiquity, the arches being also round, but without ornament ; while the structure of St. Mary's church, which was at the same time the abbey church and the cathedral of the diocese of the Isles, bespeaks a much later origin, and refers it to a date not more distant than the early part of the thirteenth century, if it be even of an antiquity so high.

6. The nunnery is the first in order of the ruins which strangers usually visit. The chapel was dedicated to St. Oran, and was possessed by canonesses of St. Augustine. Its dimensions are 60 feet by 20 ; and it contains the tomb of the last prioress, Anna, dated in 1511, with an inscription in the Saxon character. Previous to their establishment here, the nuns are said to have lived on a small isle, near Iona, still called the "Isle of Nuns." They wore a white gown, and over it a rotchet of fine linen, and lived here together a long time after the Reformation (Keith 458) ; but their presence in Iona was, of course, a deviation from St. Columba's rule, as he is known to have steadfastly opposed all female interference in his religious institutions.

To the north of the nunnery, beside the chapel, are the remains of a causeway leading to the cathedral, called the Main Street, which is joined by two others, called the Royal Street and Martyr Street, leading to the bay of that name. On the west side of the last street is Maclean's Cross, a beautifully carved pillar, and one of the 360 votive crosses which at one time adorned the island, and which, by a sentence of the Synod of Argyle, about the year 1560, were all hurled into the sea. Much has been said of the Library and Chartulary of Iona. If they were ever of the value imputed to them, this same Synod contributed more to their destruction, and to our vain regrets, than did all the ravages of Danes and barbarian warriors.

7. We arrive next at the *Reilig Ourain*, or St. Oran's burying-place, a large enclosure, in which, according to Martin, Dean of the Isles, the Kings of Scotland, Ireland, and Norway had separate cemeteries, as well as the Lords of the Isles, and the chiefs and principal families throughout the Highlands. We refer to Pennant, and to Mr. Howson's valuable paper in the Camden Society's Transactions, Part iii., formerly quoted, for some of the inscriptions in "this resting-place of saints, and kings, and warriors, which is literally paved with tombstones."

To dispel the smile of incredulity apt to gather on the face of visitors when listening to the words of the honest chronicler who marshals the motley parties whom the steamers now land in such daily recurring numbers, over the ashes of the dead, while narrating how many kings lie buried underneath, we transcribe what an eye-witness, Dean Monro of the Isles, who wrote in 1594, says on the subject:—"Within this isle of Kilmkill there is an sanctuary also, or kirkzaird, callit in Eriche, *Reilig Orain*, quhilk is a very fair kirkzaird, and weill biggit about with staine and lyme. Into this sanctuary there are three tombes of staine, formit like little chapels, with ane braide grey marble, or quhin staine, in the gavil of ilk of the tombes. In the staine of the ane tomb there is written, in Latin letters, *Tumulus Regum Scotiæ*—that is, the tombe ore grave of the Scottis Kings. Within this tombe, according to our Scottes and Erische cronikles, ther laye *fortey-eight crowned Scotts* Kings, through the quhilk this ile hes been richly dotat be the Scotts Kinges, as we have said. The tombe on the south side foresaid, has this inscription, *Tumulus Regum Hiberniæ*—that is, the tombe of the Irland Kingis; for we have

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in our auld Erische cronikells, that ther were *four Irland Kingis* erdit in the said tombe. Upon the north syde of our Scottes tombe, the inscription bears, *Tumulus Regum Norwegiæ*—that is, the tombe of the Kings of Norroway. And als' we find in our Erische cronikells, that Cœlus, King of Norroway, commandit his nobils to take his bodey and burey it in Colmkill, if it chancit him to die in the iles; bot he was so discomfitit, that ther remained not so maney of his armey as wald burey him ther, therefor he was eirded in Kyles, after he stroke ane field against the Scotts, and was vanquisht be them. Within this sanctuary also lye the maist pairt of the Lords of the Iles, with their lynage; twa clan Leans, with their lynage; MacKinnon and MacQuarrie, with their lynage; with other inhabitants of the haill iles, because this sanctuary was wont to be the sepulture of the best men of all the iles, and als' of our Kinges, as we have said."

Macbeth was the last Scottish King buried in Iona, Malcolm Caenmore having changed the place of royal sepulture to Dunfermline. In Pennant's day, there were only discoverable "certain slight remains, that were built in a ridged form, and arched within, but the inscriptions were lost;" but they were still called the Ridges of the Kings. Excavations were made in 1833 by the Iona Club, which demonstrated that there were no subterraneous vaults or chambers, but brought to light many interesting tombstones. In Oran's Chapel the inscription is quite legible of Angus Og, Lord of the Isles—the friend of Bruce, and who fought with him at Bannockburn—in these words—

"Hic jacet corpus Angusii, filii Domini Angusii M'Domhuil de Ilay."

This Angus died in 1325. "Mr. Frazier," says Pennant, "son to the Dean of the Isles, informed Mr. Sacheverell, governor of the Isle of Man, who visited Iona in 1688, that his father had collected there 300 inscriptions, and presented them to the Earl of Argyle, which were afterwards lost in the troubles of the family."

To the north lies the cathedral, which Mr. Howson thus describes:—"The Abbey Church of the Cluniac Monastery of Iona, and Cathedral of the Isles, is a cross church, measuring internally 115 feet from east to west, and 70 from north to south. The choir and nave are of equal length, and about 23 feet in

breadth.* The transepts are 17 feet in breadth. At the intersection is a tower. (1.) This tower (which once possessed a fine peal of bells) is square and plain, without any panelling, with a string running round at about half its height, and a plain cornice above. Between these two parts are windows, one on each side, which are among the most remarkable parts of the

Cathedral of Iona.

church. They are strictly square openings, filled with beautiful, but each with different, tracery, which seems to indicate their date to be in the Decorated period. That to the south is peculiarly beautiful. The square is described about a circle, in which, from a sexfoil in the centre, six volutes run off in a Flamboyant form, enclosing six others in the intermediate spaces. At one corner of it is a detached window of very small dimensions, with two quatrefoil lights. In the interior, the opening for the windows is divided by a shaft, with a capital and two bands, not unlike those which are thought to characterize Saxon churches. It might be conjectured that the tower and its openings are of very early date, and that the tracery was introduced in the fourteenth century, more especially as the shafts from which the transept arches spring have an ancient

* By pacing we make the lengths 150 and 75 feet, and the breadth 27 feet.

appearance. (2.) Of the transepts, the southern has the remains of a Decorated window; in the northern, Pennant's sketch exhibits two Early English ones. There are no aisles, but, in the north transept, the remains of a semicircular arch. The capitals of the above-mentioned shafts are ornamented with grotesque figures—one group said to represent an Angel weighing souls, and Satan crouching near. The arches are pointed. (3.) The nave is very much dilapidated, with a trace of a round arch in one place, and buttresses which (as those in the south transept) are narrow, and lie upon the wall at a small elevation. The western doorway is small and plain, having a dripstone, and moulding running continuously to the ground. (4.) It is not easy to ascertain the original appearance of the choir. At the east end is a good Decorated window, and there are Decorated windows in the north and south wall, on each side of it. There is no other window in the north wall, which in one part exhibits two Early English arches, with the toothed ornament, springing from round piers with somewhat rude capitals. These arches are quite built up in the wall, which, however, shews marks of recent work. Below them is a doorway of elaborate but singular form, semicircular, and trefoiled. On examining the engravings of Pennant, I find that in his time these arches were free, and seem to have opened into a chapel which was attached to the north side of the choir. This prepares us for considering the south side, where there seems to have been something of a similar arrangement. Here are three round piers, about 10 feet high and 9 feet in circumference, with capitals covered with grotesque figures, and pointed arches, with several mouldings. The easternmost pier is square, with a square abacus. To these piers are attached overarching buttresses (if so they may be called), which formerly have been roofed over, thus constituting a species of quadrantal aisle. The whole is walled round, with an elegant window apparently Decorated, to the east; and a breast-wall is built between the piers themselves. It is probable that what at first sight seems to have been an aisle has really constituted one or more chapels; and that Dr. Sacheverell speaks accurately when he says that 'on each side of the choir are two little chapels, the entrance to them opening with large pillars, curiously carved in basso relievo.'

"There remain three well-worked sedilia, of Early English

appearance, formed with trefoiled ogee arches, under connected dripstones, which run out afterwards into a horizontal tablet, and have at each apex the remains of what seems to have been a sculptured head. The principal altar seems to have remained until a late period—Sacheverell, who saw it in 1688, says it measured six feet by four. Martin, whose tour was written in 1702, uses these words:—'The altar is large, and of as fine a marble as ever I saw.' And it must have existed in 1772, since Pennant says that he and his companions contributed to diminish it. He says it was of white marble veined with gray.

"Pennant merely notices the remains of the Bishop's Palace; and now, I believe, there are but slight traces of it. Sacheverell tells us that it consisted of a large hall, open to the roof of a chamber, into which he supposes it must have been necessary to ascend by a ladder, and under this chamber a buttery. The offices were probably, according to custom, outside. He says it put him in mind of the inscription on Bishop Rutter's tomb in the Isle of Man:

'Vide et ride Palatium Episcopi!'

The abbot's house stood to the westward. It is so obvious that this church has been patched and blocked up in many places since it became a ruin, that a minute examination would be necessary before a confident opinion could be pronounced on the date of all its parts. But when the windows in the tower and in the choir are considered, there can be no doubt that a great portion is of the fourteenth century. Some Norman work to the north of the church—possibly also the piers, the buttresses, the shafts in the tower, and the toothed ornaments in the choir—might indicate that the shell of the building was a century earlier, or even more. Nothing can be more probable than that the Abbey Church was originally erected by some of the island chieftains in their days of power, that it was dismantled during the troubles at the beginning of the fourteenth century, and repaired in more tranquil years which concluded it—perhaps about 1380, when it became an Episcopal as well as a monastic church." Mr. Howson, from an entry in Dean Mylne's Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld, afterwards saw reason to believe that the age of the cathedral may have been forty or fifty years older than what he mentions above.

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One of the finest of the ancient crosses of Iona, taller (about fifteen feet) and richer than Maclean's, has been set up on a basement of granite, opposite the entrance to the cathedral, and within the enclosure now very properly formed around it. The cross is exquisitely carved in high relief, with Rhunic knotting of great freedom of design, on mica slate.

Cross near Cathedral.

8. The earliest tomb actually bearing a date is that of Lachlan Mackinnon, in 1489, and the next in point of antiquity, as yet discovered, is Abbot Mackinnon's, near the altar, dated in 1500. The inscriptions in the Gaelic alphabet are not dated; swords, ships (some of them exhibiting the ancient forms of the Hebridean galleys, with the stern and prow both alike, and curved upwards like the Roman vessels, and provided with a single square sail), and armorial bearings with ill-executed bas-reliefs of warriors, form the chief objects on the sculptured tombs.

As already mentioned, most families of distinction in the Highlands had burying-places here, and many erected votive chapels in different parts of the island. Besides the veneration of the place, a prophecy was currently handed about, that, "seven years before the end of the world, a deluge shall drown the nations; the sea at one tide shall cover Ireland and the green-headed Isla; but Columba's Isle shall swim above the flood:" thus the notion of protection mingled with that of the sanctity of the isle in making it the resort of strangers to bury their dead. Out of the last Government grant for erecting additional places of worship in the Highlands, a church and

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manse have been built, and a resident minister has been appointed to Iona, and the *free* church has also erected here a place of worship and residence for a minister.

The cairns and circles throughout the island, and the *black stones*, or stones of fate, are most probably Druidical, and give countenance to the traditions and early Irish writings, purporting that St. Columba found the Druids in power here on his arrival, though doubtless many of the details are fabulous, and many mere monkish inventions of later times.

The distinguishing features of the religious system introduced into Scotland by St. Columba (according to Mr. Skene, Scot. Highlanders, I. 194), were, that the monks were ordained *clergymen*, not *laymen*, as was common on the continent of Europe under the Romish church—that they dwelt in monasteries, whence they issued, as occasion presented, to convert by their preaching the neighbouring savage tribes—that they had abbots over them, "possessing the same character, exercising the same functions, and in every respect occupying the same position with the bishops of other churches," and enjoying a territorial jurisdiction as bishops did. As in Ireland, so also in Scotland, the abbots were sometimes styled "Bishop Abbots," and sometimes "Presbyter Abbots;" but the great peculiarity, according to Mr. Skene, of the Culdee Church, "was the union of the clerical and monastic order into one collegiate system, where the abbot and the bishop were the same person, and the inferior orders of presbyters and deacons formed the monks who were under his control." The attempt to assimilate this state of things to modern Presbyterianism, as has sometimes been tried, can only succeed by confounding and altering the meaning of words in all ancient authorities. In the middle of the seventh century, the primacy was removed from Armagh, in Ireland, to Iona, which had previously been of the subordinate class which was ruled only by a Presbyter Abbot; but subsequently, in consequence of the ravages of the Danes, the primacy was transferred to Dunkeld, and soon after to St. Andrews, where the Romish clergy early succeeded in totally altering the constitution and government of the church, David I. having introduced the establishment of regular parochial clergy, thereby superseding the missionary system of St. Columba. He erected monasteries, with lay monks, on the Romish plan, placing over both bishops, whose jurisdiction, and the number of their dio-

ceses remained unaltered, "being just those who had previously existed among the Culdees."

9. We are glad to say that a small party can now be accommodated with tolerable, though homely lodgings in the island, so that tourists—a few at a time—can leisurely examine the whole ruins, and afterwards, if the weather be steady, take a boat to Staffa and Ulva, and after resting at the small inn at the latter place, regain the main coast of Mull, or rejoin the steamers.* If they take the course by Ulva, they should not omit a visit to Innis Kenneth, rendered classic ground by Dr. Johnson, and of which he observes, that "Romance does not often exhibit a scene that strikes the imagination more than this little desert isle, in these depths of western obscurity." Here was a seminary for many centuries dependent on Iona, and here the great moralist was hospitably and politely entertained by Sir Allan Maclean and his two young daughters, "the elder of whom read the English service" on Sunday. "The chapel (says the Doctor) is about sixty feet in length and thirty in breadth. On one side of the altar is a bas-relief of the blessed Virgin, and by it lies a little bell, which, though cracked and without a clapper, has remained there for ages, guarded only by the venerableness of the place. The ground round the chapel is covered with gravestones of chiefs and ladies, and still continues to be a place

* Were more commodious accommodation provided, and this generally made known, a few days' sojourn in Iona could not fail to become a frequent occurrence, and the speculation remunerative. Few intelligent tourists turn their backs on Iona and Staffa, without the wish that circumstances had permitted a more leisurely examination of the very wondrous works of the Creator in the one, and in the other of relics of remote antiquity, so impressively heaped together in these distant isles of the sea. No other spot in Great Britain stands so extensively associated with the past as Icolmkil; while Staffa is unrivalled in its own peculiar and wonder-inspiring style; and as the flocks of visitors attest the force of their combined attractions, it is high time that suitable provision were made for the full gratification of the public curiosity, by means of a good inn, or of several proper lodging-houses. There is hardly a point in the kingdom more frequented, though at present merely for a flying visit, and we hope the want experienced will be speedily removed. It is gratifying to understand that Bishop Ewing, of Argyle and the Isles, is engaged in having a work compiled, which will embrace numerous delineations and descriptions of the antiquities and scenery, along with all the scattered historical notices connected with them and with the island, collected into one—a work which cannot fail to be highly acceptable. But it is matter of surprise that no movement is now made to do all that may be practicable in the way of removing rubbish, and rendering all discoverable inscriptions legible. Were subscriptions opened at sight of any body or person in whom confidence would be placed, on board the Staffa and Iona steamer, and at the Oban Caledonian Hotel, most tourists would readily contribute to a fund for investigation and further protection. It might also not be amiss that something more were done, *but under proper superintendence*, in the way of ensuring dry footing in wet weather for the parties from the steamers visiting the ruins. Let the Messrs. Burns but direct a portion of their characteristic spirit and energy to these matters, and all difficulties will disappear.

of sepulture."—(*Journey.*) Sir Allan's house, in ruins, now adds to the desolation, and, in the language of Dr. Macculloch, "the cemetery is unenclosed, unprotected, and forgotten—the haunt of the plover and the curlew."

10. Let us hasten on to our tour round Mull. Staffa and Iona have nothing imposing about them when seen from a distance. The former appears as a round lumpish rock, and the latter, in nearing it from the north, is so low, that at first it seems as but a dark speck of cloud resting on the surface of the ocean.

As the steamer holds on her course towards Staffa, the attention is occupied with the outlines of the Treshnish Isles, and of the more distant forms of Coll and Tiree. But as the vessel draws nigh her destination, all eyes are directed to the rocky mass a-head, so known to fame.

It is only, however, when we have approached pretty close that the beauties of Staffa begin to unfold themselves. Let the visitor—if, like Maclean at the flood, he have "a boat of his own"—be in no haste to reach the landing place, but let him rather first sail along the whole eastern side of the island. He will thus pass the entrances of all the most celebrated caves, will become familiar with the general characters of the colonnades, and, as he approaches the south-western extremity, will have a most imposing view of the main entablature of the island, supported by the continuous cliffs of basaltic pillars. A very good general survey is also to be had from the steamer's decks.

Staffa is of an irregular oval shape, about a mile and a half in circumference, presenting an uneven table-land, resting on cliffs of variable height. The greatest elevation lies towards the south-west, and appears to be about 144 feet. The island is composed of a fundamental ledge of rocks of conglomerated trap or tuffa, to which succeeds a grayish black, hard, and compact columnar basalt, which is covered by a mass of shapeless basalt of the same description, with small columns interspersed through it. The whole facade of the island, the arches and floorings of the caves, strongly resemble architectural designs, and have been described by terms taken from works of art; and even the surface of the summit of the island, presenting in several places the ends of small columns jutting up from the

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amorphous basalt, has much the appearance of a tesselated pavement. So numerous are the caves, that the rock may almost be described as perforated with them all round, but the wonders of the spot are concentrated on the eastern side, and the surge which constantly beats on the other parts of the island renders the examination of them both difficult and dangerous.

Inclined a little from the horizontal position, the beds of rock dip towards the north-east, which is the lowest part of the island, and where a landing can be effected in almost any state of the tide. Proceeding along the base of the cliff from this point, the objects the visitor has to examine succeed one another in the following order :—1. The Clam or Scallop Shell Cave. 2. Bouchaillie, or the Herdsman. 3. The Great Colonnade and Causeway. 4. Fingal's Cave. 5. The Boat Cave. 6. Mackinnon's Cave ; which last occurs close by the south-western extremity of the island.

11. (1.) Approaching the Clam Shell Cave, an increase in the size of the basaltic columns is perceived, and on one side of that opening they are beautifully bent or curved, presenting an appearance like the ribs of a ship ; while the wall on the opposite side is made up of the projecting ends of horizontal columns, having a resemblance to the surface of a honeycomb.

(2.) Detached a few paces from the shore, is the very singular and beautiful islet of Bouchaillie, or the Herdsman. It is about thirty feet high, and seems to rest on a series of horizontal pillars, visible only at low water. Composed entirely of small columns, which are closely attached to one another, and inclined as to a central nucleus, it possesses a conical form, and, from its symmetry and regularity, is altogether one of the most interesting objects about the island.

(3.) From opposite this rock the pillars become erect, and extend, in one continued colonnade, along the whole face of the cliff to the entrance of Fingal's Cave. An inclined space, formed of irregularly protruding, horizontally fractured remnants of broken columns, intervenes between the base of the cliff and the sea, and composes the grand causeway.

12. (4.) Increasing in breadth as it proceeds, this pavement at length brings us round a projecting abutment of the rock ; and the splendid entrance, deep recesses, and clear green water

of the Uaimh Binn, the Musical, or Fingal's Cave, bursts upon our view. Description has long been exhausted on the wonders of this cave. "Compared to this, what are the cathedrals or the palaces built by men? Mere models or playthings! imitations as diminutive as his works will always be when compared to those of nature. Where is now the boast of the architect? Regularity—the only particular in which he fancied himself to exceed his mistress, Nature—is here found in her possession, and was for ages unknown and undescribed."

The dimensions of this cave were minutely taken by Dr. Macculloch, from whose very valuable scientific paper on Staffa we make the following extract :—

	Feet.
Height from the water at mean tide to the top of the arch ...	66
Do. from the top of the arch to that of the cliff above	30
Do. of the pillars on the western side	36
Do. of the pillars on the eastern side	18
Breadth of the cave at entrance	42
Do. near the inner extremity	22
Length of the cave	227

The causeway on the eastern side continues on from the entrance—but very narrow—almost to the extremity of the cave, formed of broken pillars, on which a precarious and slippery footing, aided in part by a rope to hold by, is got by those who have nerve to venture in without a boat. We have seen ladies attain the very extremity; but it is hardly worth the somewhat trying effort, as the effect is most striking near the entrance.

The sides of the chasm are columnar, and for the most part perpendicular. A deeply channelled fissure, parallel to the sides, extends along the whole length of the ceiling, which is ornamented by pendant clusters of columns, whitened with calcareous stalagmite. As the sea never entirely ebbs from this cave, having indeed a depth of eighteen feet at low water, it forms its constant flooring, along which a boat may be pushed, if the waves are not breaking too fiercely at the entrance to admit of its approach. The average diameter of the basaltic columns, throughout the island, is about two, but often they extend to three and even four feet. Their general forms are pentagonal and hexagonal, but the number of sides is sometimes increased to seven and nine, and they are rarely found rhomboidal or triangular.

In position they are sometimes erect, sometimes oblique, and not unfrequently horizontal, while they are often curved, and variously jointed and implicated.

13. (5.) The next opening we have to notice is called the Boat Cave ; and between it and the Great Cave is the highest portion of the columnar cliff, the upper surface of which is about 112 feet above high-water mark. This cave derives its name, we may suppose, from its being accessible only by sea ; and, though itself insignificant in size, the symmetry of that part of the columnar range under which it lies, is even greater than near the Cave of Fingal. The height of this cave is from fourteen to fifteen feet above high water, and its breadth is twelve feet, the length being at least 150 feet. Both the sides and roof are smooth, like the gallery of a mine, without interest or beauty.

(6.) Still further to the south is Mackinnon's, or, as it is sometimes called, the Scart or Cormorant Cave, and is the last we have to notice. Situated in the lower conglomerate rock, its sides are smooth ; and although in many respects, grand and powerful in effect, it is deficient in that kind of beauty resulting from order and regularity, so remarkable in Fingal's Cave. In height about fifty feet, and breadth forty-eight feet, it presents a large square opening, which is of easy access, there being no protruding rocks at the entrance. The length is 224 feet, and its interior dimensions are, throughout, nearly equal to the external aperture, except at the extremity, where the roof and walls approach a little, and a beach of pebbles is thrown up. Parties from the steamer are not in the way of visiting these two last caves. But a ladder of steps has been formed at the Clam Shell Cave, giving access to the top of the island.

We have now described all the most interesting objects in this island. None of the other caves on the south and north sides are remarkable either for beauty or magnitude, but only for the loud beating of the waves within their dark recesses.

14. Finally, if the visitor be a geologist, to the ample food which the basaltic rocks of this island will afford him for speculation, we beg to refer to an additional phenomenon, which may escape his notice, but is not the least perplexing of the wonders of this place. We allude to the shingle bank, composed of substances very different from the trap rocks of the

island, which occurs near the landing place. Though a green and fertile island, Staffa has no trees on it, and presents no rare or peculiar plants. Like its name, the interest with which it will ever continue to be regarded must proceed entirely from the peculiar features of its geological structure, and from its mineral products, which, were there any accommodations on the island for the visitor, would occupy many of his leisure days fully to explore and comprehend. At present, there is not a hut of any description to take shelter in during a storm.

15. Hastening on now towards the Sound of Mull, passengers, after quitting Staffa, will in most weathers feel, as they will also have experienced in the first part of the voyage, the heavy swell of the mighty Atlantic, rolling on towards the Scottish coast. They cannot but admire the curious castellated forms of the Treshnish Isles, like so many fortifications, especially of the extraordinary rock called the Dutchman's Cap, backed by the distant masses of Tiree and Coll ; and the grand mountain screens of Rum, and to the northward the abrupt Scuir of Eig. When past the bluff point of Caillich, and opposite the long headland of Ardnamurchan, we may reckon ourselves as within the *fauces terræ*, and will soon be hurried on to the snug haven of Tobermory seven miles distant, surveying as we pass the ruins, on the northern shore, of Mingarry Castle. Its walls rise from the edge of a small projecting rock, about four-and-twenty feet in height, defended on the landward side by a dry ditch. Its form is hexagonal, with every alternate side smaller than the others. The castle, which occupies two of the landward sides, is of three storeys, each containing two rooms, the staircase being in the centre. The remaining sides are formed by a dead wall, nearly as high as the highest wall of the castle. On two of these sides are outhouses confining the court to a small triangle. Surmounting battlements extend round the whole. The length of the main building is fifty feet, and the total circumference somewhat more than two hundred. With the exception of a few loop-holes, there is no external opening. Two small cannon still remain, but it is difficult to imagine how any use could be made of ordnance on such narrow battlements. The roof is nearly entire, and part of the joists and flooring remains. Mingarry was anciently the residence of the Mac Ians, a sept of the Macdonalds, descended from Ian, or

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John, a grandson of Angus Og, Lord of the Isles. The last time that Mingarry was of military importance, as detailed in the Red Book of Clanranald, was during the great Montrose's enterprise of 1644, when it was besieged for him by Allaster Macdonald of Colkitto, who commanded the Irish auxiliaries, and took it after a considerable resistance.

16. The principal village in Mull is Tobermory—"the Well of our Lady St. Mary." It is beautifully situated at the extremity of the inner recess of a close bay, encircled by high precipitous banks, and in front protected from the winds and waves by a low island; thus rendered one of the most secure havens on the coast. Shrubs and brushwood adorn the face of the steep sides of the bay; and above them the ground rises into a gently sloping amphitheatre. The village stretches along the base and the brow of the acclivity. The excellent quays, frequently crowded with shipping, give to Tobermory a gay and lively character, especially when approached from the sea, while its very sheltered position and picturesque accompaniments are quite enticing. It has not yet got into much repute as a sea-bathing quarter, for which it appears very eligible. Let the inhabitants but study to lay themselves out for visitors, by suitable accommodations, and they cannot fail to have an influx, now that so many steamers come the way, affording facilities of communication in all directions. The town derives its name from a celebrated well, which, with a small chapel now in ruins, was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Near the chapel, also, are the remains of a fortification said to have been Norwegian.

The Spanish ship Florida, one of the *invincible* armada, was sunk here by an emissary of Queen Elizabeth. This vessel is supposed to have contained a great deal of specie, and attempts have been made, by diving-bells, to get at the stores, or to raise the ship. Guns of brass and iron have been brought up, one or two of which are still to be seen at Dunstaffnage Castle, and some of the former had the mark of an English founder on them, with the date 1584. A portion of the ship's plank was presented to his Majesty George IV. on his visit to Edinburgh in 1822. The country tradition regarding this vessel is, that a daughter of the King of Spain having dreamed that a young man of particularly engaging figure had appeared to her, determined to sail the wide world in search of

the living prototype of the vision. Maclean of Duart realized in the young princess' eyes the creature of her fancy. His lady became jealous of his attention to the fair stranger, and sought counsel of the witches of Mull, by whose agency the vessel was sunk, with the object of her resentment.

Tobermory was commenced about sixty years ago, under the auspicies of the Society for the Encouragement of the British Fisheries, to whom it still belongs. Its advantages as a fishing-station are not great, owing to its distance from the banks of cod and ling; and the village was thus for a long time stationary. Its chief dependence is on the victualling of ships navigating the Sound, or which may be obliged to run to its harbour for protection when overtaken by storms among the Hebrides. From the convenience of its situation in this respect, Tobermory has of late years sprung up to be a flourishing seaport. In its immediate vicinity is Drimfin, better known by the name of St. Mary's Lake, a romantic spot well worthy the notice of the tourist, situated between two finely wooded hills rising precipitously from its banks. Drimfin is the property of Hugh Maclean, Esq., of Coll, who has built a splendid mansion-house on the banks of the lake, and has otherwise greatly improved the place. There are several fine cascades near it, one of which is worthy of attention. By visiting it the tourist will also be rewarded by a magnificent view of the lake, the romantic beauties that surround it, the harbour and shipping, the village and Sound of Mull, the hills of Morven, and the picturesque shores of Loch Sunart, with the Ardnamurchan hills in the distance.

17. Taking now Sir Walter Scott's Lord of the Isles in hand, the tourist will greatly enjoy the sail down the Sound of Mull, the winding strait which divides that rough island from the mainland of Scotland. The channel is deep enough to bear vessels of the largest burthen; it sweeps in beautifully curved lines through shores, mountainous on the one side, and on the Morven coast comparatively low, of gentle inclination, and indented by deep salt-water lochs, running up many miles inland.

On each cape and promontory, as we wind along, the fragments of the dark gray walls of the ancient Scandinavian burghs, and the shattered and picturesque battlements of the more recent castles, of which we are presently to speak, rise up before us,

recalling the thoughts of the stern olden time, when the whole of these shores were exposed to continual warfare and invasion. In fine weather, a grander and more impressive scene, both from its natural beauties and historical associations, can hardly be imagined. When the weather is rough, the passage is both difficult and dangerous, at least to sailing boats, more particularly from the "conflicting tides that meet from strait and lake,"—and from the sudden gusts of wind that issue from the mountain glens.

In clear moonlight, also, the sail is most delightful, and then,—

> "Awaked before the rushing prow
> The mimic fires of ocean glow,
> Those lightnings of the wave;
> Wild sparkles crest the broken tides,
> And, flashing round the vessel's sides,
> With elvish lustre lave."

18. At Salin, in the Bay of Aros (different from Salin in Sunart), eight or nine miles distant from Tobermory, and eighteen from Auchnacraig ferry-house, opposite to Kerrera, there is a small public house where the tourist can put up, and where also, should he have come along the coast of Mull from Auchnacraig ferry, he can get post horses to conduct him to the head of Loch-na-Keal on the opposite side of the island, a distance of four miles, and thence to Laggan-Ulva, seven miles farther, the usual point of embarkation for Staffa and Iona. Aros was one of the residences of the great island kings. This castle occupies the summit of a high rocky peninsula, at the mouth of a streamlet falling into the sea, by the side of a wide-spreading-bay. It is a massy oblong, measuring thirty paces by twelve, and about forty feet high, and appears to have comprised but a single apartment, lighted by a few large sharp-pointed windows. A spacious esplanade extends from the front of the rock, round which there seems to have been an enclosing wall. Only two walls of the castle and part of a third are standing; but they present an interesting memento of the rude and gloomy grandeur of former days.

19. The series of castles here alluded to, which form such interesting objects in the landscape, and the many others throughout the west coast, were most of them, probably, erected by the island chieftains, after the downfall of the Norwegian influence, when some of them began to arrogate to themselves an independent sway. The round Scandinavian fortresses were

erected without the use of mortar; but the mixture of stone and lime, and the arched doorways and windows, show that the Gothic style of architecture was known when the square-shaped castles were commenced, and that they are of a comparatively recent period. On the accession of the Hebrides to the Scottish crown, Alexander III. set vigorously to work, in repairing and increasing the number of the strongholds of the kingdom; and the recorded accounts of the sheriffs and public officers of the day still remain, to attest the expenses they cost him. Not content with treaties, he encouraged his subjects to extend and strengthen these defences, and those on the west coast were peculiarly styled "*overbands* against the Danes." At that period the French and foreign artisans introduced into the kingdom the accommodation and provisions for defence, displayed by them on a more magnificent scale in the English garrisons; and hence, in the buildings in question, an obvious imitation of the Normanic castles; while those of the island chieftains themselves partake of the like peculiarities.

It is remarkable that we perceive very few oratories or chapels in the strongholds of the Hebridean chiefs; and with the new improvements introduced into their stone and lime buildings, they retained many of the ruder and more savage features of the Scandinavian burghs.

Nothing could be more wild than the situations chosen for these fortresses: sometimes on detached islets or pinnacles; more generally on promontories surrounded on three sides by the sea; and on high precipitous rocks commanding an extensive view, and a ready communication with the water. Straight and narrow stairs, little better than stone ladders, and arched vaults, were a frequent mode of access; and in some cases, between the top of these stairs and the main building, yawning chasms intervened, across which, as occasion required, a slender drawbridge was lowered. Rude but strong buttresses propped up the walls, which occasionally were continued to a distance from the principal keep—so as to form a court or ballium. But great extent is not to be looked for in these buildings. Their dimensions are small, and their accommodations slender and simple, compared with the edifices which in the south remain to attest the warlike propensities and state of ancient times.

20. Almost due east from Aros, on the opposite or Morven

shore, frown the remains of the rugged walls of Ardtornish, one of the principal seats of the Lords of the Isles during the period of their stormy independence, especially during the fifteenth century, in the times of Donald, Alexander, and John, the three last Lords of the Isles, and Earls of Ross. Prior to this age, Islay and Cantyre were the chief places of residence of the island princes; but Islay came to be occupied by John Mor, brother of Donald, and his descendants. The situation of Ardtornish is low, but wild and romantic, having on one hand a chain of rocks overhanging the sea, and on the other the entrance to the beautiful salt-water lake called Loch Alline, which is in many places finely fringed with coppice-wood. The ruins of a single keep and outer defences much broken down, are all that is now to be seen of the ancient castle. Here the old lords held their courts, or parliaments, as they have been called; and here John d'Ile, in 1461, assuming the style of a sovereign prince, granted a commission for entering into a treaty with Edward IV. of England. The conferences ended in an agreement, by which the Lord of the Isles became vassal to the crown of England, and engaged to assist Edward and the Earl of Douglas, then in banishment, in subduing the realm of Scotland.

Killundine, on the Morven coast, and Kin-Loch Alline Castle, at the head of the sea loch of that name, may be added to this catalogue of strongholds, as worthy of examination while the tourist is in this neighbourhood. The former is quite decayed, little better than a heap of rubbish; the latter, though only a square tower with turrets and a corbel table, as being perched on a bold rock overhanging the sea, and surrounded with pretty fields and birch copses, and from being uncommonly fine in its proportions, forms, according to Dr. Macculloch "one of the most picturesque of the Highland castles." In the adjoining church-yards of Kilintuintaik, (St. Winifred's cell), and Kilcolumkill, (St. Columba's), are several beautifully carved crosses, some broken and some entire, and in the latter an elegant south porch in the earliest pointed style; besides several broken tomb-stones, with mitred effigies, which we suspect have been stolen from Iona. The tourist will be gratified with a boat sail up Loch Sunart, now visited as far as Salin by two weekly steamers, and by a general exploring expedition through Morven, the scenery and antiquities of which are as yet but little known.

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21. On the south-east promontory of Mull stands one of the most entire, though among the oldest, of the castles we have to notice in the present excursion—that of Duart. It belonged to the chief of the clan Maclean, and stands on the brink of a high cliff at the extremity of a long and elevated peninsular headland, and within a gunshot of the sea. It is four miles and a half distant from the ferry-house of Achnacraig. The main building is a large and nearly square tower, with walls of the unusual thickness of twelve and fourteen feet, reputed to be of Danish construction. In the thickest part is the staircase. Two buildings, one bearing date 1663, the other more recently added for the accommodation of a small garrison stationed here till a no very distant period, with a high wall on the fourth side, form, with the tower, a parallelogram measuring forty paces by twenty-six. The shell of the structure is entire. The windows of the tower are large and wide, and rounded at the top inside, but externally they contract to a small oblong. A few cannon, fourteen-pounders, are still lying in the court. Off this castle we pass the Lady's Rock, visible at low water, where Maclean of Duart caused his wife, a sister of the Earl of Argyle, against whom he had conceived a violent aversion, to be placed, in the expectation that the rising tide would drown her. Having been fortunately observed and rescued by some of her father's people, who were passing in a boat, Maclean was allowed to go through all the hypocritical ceremonial of a mock funeral; but was shortly afterwards sacrificed to the vengeance of the infuriated Campbells, being assassinated in Edinburgh by one of her brothers, Sir John Campbell, who, by his marriage in 1500 with the heiress of Cawdor in Nairnshire, became the head of that house.

22. Farther north, but close on the left hand, will be observed the fertile island of Lismore (*the Great Garden*), which is a mass of limestone about ten miles long by two broad. On the north side, perched on a high rock, stands Auchindown Castle, the ancient seat of the bishops of Argyle. This castle forms a large square of twenty-eight paces on each side, with walls about forty feet in height; the area being divided by a cross wall into two unequal parts, of which the smaller alone seems to have been used as a dwelling-place. From Auchindown, another pretty entire square keep is seen on the coast of Morven, in the opening of Glen Sanda, called Castle-en-Coer; and

there are the ruins of another, on the same side of Lismore as Auchindown, about four miles to the north, called Balmackilchan.

Iona always contained the cathedral church of the diocese of the Isles, at least of the Hebrides or North Isles, as Man did of the Sudories or South Isles, while the mainland of Argyle of old pertained to the see of Dunkeld; but about the year 1200 John, Bishop of Dunkeld, who appears to have been an Englishman, applied to and obtained permission from the Pope to erect the western portion of his great diocese into a separate one in favour of his chaplain Ereldus, *who understood the Irish tongue*, with Lismore as the cathedral seat; whence the bishops were subsequently styled *Episcopi Lismorenses*, or *Episcopi Ergadienses*, the latter title being assumed, we suspect, after the donations by King Alexander II. of lands on the continent of Argyle. The cathedral, now converted into the parish church, stands in a bare place near the centre of the isle, on the verge of an elevated burying-ground, and commands one of the most extensive and grand views in the British dominions. The choir alone remains—it had no aisles; and Mr. Howson thinks (Camden Society's Transactions, Part ii., p. 99) it never had a nave or transept. "The door-ways," he says, "are two—one to the west, with a pointed arch; the other to the south, with a semicircular arch and dripstone, and behind the latter a small enclosure, which seems to have been a chantry. The piscina is a plain recess, having a pointed arch, the further end being pierced in a very small trefoiled arch, apparently for a shelf. The sidelia are remarkable. They are in their usual position, immediately, to the west of the piscina: the arches are *semicircular*, without mouldings, the eastern one wider and higher than the other two; with the *roll* and *fillet* moulding, which, perhaps, may be taken as indicative of the *Decorated* period." Hence Mr. Howson conjectures that the date of the church, which is only fifty-six by twenty-eight feet, and which does not possess any peculiarly beautiful parts, may be the middle of the fourteenth century; and he says, "it cannot be earlier." It was dedicated to *St. Muluag* or *Molochus*, a saint of the seventh century. The bishop's crozier is still in existence, in the possession of the hereditary keepers, a family of the name of Livingstone. Until a few years ago, a Roman Catholic collegiate seminary was kept up on Lismore, but which has now been removed to Braemar in Aberdeenshire.

23. There is now a lighthouse at the southern point of Lismore. Crossing hence over the fine breadth of Loch Linnhe, we soon enter the bay of Oban by the north-east end of Kerrera, and after passing the guardian tower of Dunolly (Dunolave), repose at the village whence we set out; and he must be a dull and unimpressible observer, who, if the day have proved favourable, does not acknowledge that the route he then traced was among the finest things his eyes have ever been gladdened with, and if he does not find his mind stored with many new and precious ideas.

SECTION EIGHTH.—BRANCH E.

SKYE AND RASAY.

DIVISION I. SKYE.—FROM ARMADALE, KYLE RHEA, AND KYLE AKIN, TO DUNVEGAN AND DUNTULM.

General Description of Skye, 1.—Isles of Rum, Eig, and Muck; Tale connected with Cave in Eig, 2.—Armadale Castle; Isle Oronsay; Isle Oronsay to Broadford, 3.—Kyle Rhea, 4.—Kyle Akin; Castle Maoil, 5.—Broadford to Sconser and Portree, 6. Portree, 7.—East Coast of Trotternish; Caves; Storr, 8.—Portree to Dunvegan, 9.—Village of Stein, 10.—Dunvegan Castle; Antique Relics at Dunvegan, 11.—Piper's College; MacCrimmons of Borreraig, 12.—Clach Modha, or The Manners' Stone at Galtrigil; Phenomenon at Dunvegan Head; Glendale; Vaterstein, 13.—Lady Grange, 14.—Dunvegan to Sligachan; Lochs Struan, Bracadale, and Harport; Sepulchral Cairns; Episcopal Chapel; Round Tower, 15.—Talisker, 16.—Trotternish; Bay of Uig; Duntulm Castle, 17.—Quiraing, 18.—Prince Charles' Wanderings, 19.

	Miles.
Armadale to Isle Oronsay	7
Broadford	9
(Kyle Rhea to Broadford, 12 miles, Kyle Akin to Broadford, 8½.)	
Sligachan	15
Portree	9½
Kinloch Snizort	6
Coushletter	6
Dunvegan	10
	62½
(Back to Sligachan by Bracadale.)	
Struan	11
Sligachan	13
	24

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1. Skye forms no inconsiderable part of the county of Inverness, and is the largest of the Western Islands. In the ancient language of the country, says Martin, it is called Ealan Skianach, or the Winged Island, "because the two opposite northern promontories (Vaternish lying north-west, and Trotternish north-east) resemble two wings." Though its extreme length is upwards of fifty miles, with a breadth varying from ten to twenty-five, it is so much indented by arms of the sea, that it is said there is not a spot in the island at a greater distance from the sea than three and a half miles. It has thus as rugged an outline as any of the *inciso-serrated* fuci with which its shores abound. The predominating character of the island is perhaps that of a great mountainous moorland; but it contains extensive ranges of excellent grazing, many green hills, and in some districts a considerable extent of fertile arable land. The mountains stand rather in groups than ranges, and are no less striking and unusual, than diversified in their character and outline. The most prominent and imposing of these are about the middle of the island, and are visible from almost every part of it. The coasts, especially on the west and north-east sides, are rocky, bold, and varied in outline, sometimes rugged and precipitous, and again rising by gentle slopes into irregular terraces, diversified by projecting crags, deep hollows, and lofty pinnacles of rock. Few countries present more of the grand and sublime in scenery than this island generally affords; and with its magnificent and varied sky lines, its intermediate elevations and undulation of surface, and the never-failing presence of the sea in its numerous bays, lochs, and creeks, it has much of the picturesque and beautiful, of the elements of which little is wanting except wood, and the more frequent presence of the cheering proofs of human industry and comfort which well cultivated fields, and neat rural dwellings and gardens would supply. There is no lack of fish of every variety, and in some favourable localities the white fishing is prosecuted with considerable success. The herring fishery, particularly on the east side of the island, is very productive, and salmon is taken in considerable quantities in bag nets along the shores. Oysters are very abundant in the Sound of Scalpa, and are also to be had of very fine quality in Loch Snizort, and other parts of the island shores. Other shellfish—cockles, mussels, clams, limpets, periwinkles, &c. &c.—are very numerous, and lobster fishing has been pur-

sued successfully on the west side of Skye, particularly at the island of Soa. There is an extensive and well-stocked deer forest at the head of Loch Ainort. Roe deer are numerous in the woods of Armadale, and grouse, black game, and partridges afford good sport all over the island. Pheasants have been successfully introduced at Dunvegan, and at Armadale hares have now become numerous, though former attempts to introduce them into Skye, where they are not indigenous, had been unsuccessful. Until within the last three or four years no hares were to be found in Skye, except in the small island of Paffa, near Broadford.

The greatest assemblage of mountains occurs on the southern border of the central portion of the island, called Minginish. Here the Cuchullins, so often mentioned in the songs of Ossian, exhibit a series of lofty and splintered peaks which meet the eye in every direction, and all the mountains in this quarter are peaked or conical, and present a very unusual appearance. An excellent road, though unavoidably hilly, has been opened from the south, along the east coast of Skye as far as Portree. Here it cuts across the country to the head of Loch Snizort, where it divides into two branches: one leading along the west coast of Trotternish past the bay of Uig; the other conducting to Stein and Dunvegan, whence it has been continued by Bracadale, on the west coast, back to the head of Loch Sligachan.

2. Of the roads leading from the Three Ferries betwixt Skye and the mainland, we will commence with the most southerly, that from Armadale through Sleat. This road corresponds with the one from Fort-William to Arisaig. In crossing the ferry, or now by the steamer which calls off Arisaig, and has superseded the ferry-boat, we enjoy a very extensive view, commanding the whole eastern shore of Sleat, the opposite coast from Glenelg to the point of Ardnamurchan, the hills of Applecross in the distant north-eastern horizon, and to the west the islands of Rum, Eig, and Muck. These islands are easily visited from Armadale or Arisaig. The produce of them all, as of most of the Western Islands, consists principally of sheep and black cattle.

Eig is distinguished by a peculiarly shaped hill—the Scuir of Eig*—terminating in a lofty pillar-like peak, surrounded by high and perpendicular precipices. In the south of the island

* Formed of pitchstone porphyry. The trap overlies a forest of petrified trees of an extinct flora, allied to *coniferous* genera.

is a large cave, in which the whole of the inhabitants were at one time *smoked* to death by the laird of Macleod, in revenge of an insult offered to some of his people. The inhabitants of the island having taken refuge in this cave, the entrance of which is not easily found, the Macleods, after an ineffectual search, concluding that the natives had all fled, were about to return to their boats, when they espied a man, whom, as there was snow on the ground, they traced to this his own and his fellow-islanders' place of retreat. Macleod caused a fire to be lighted at the mouth of the cavern, and all within were suffocated. The floor is to this day strewed with fragments of skeletons, evidences of the truth of the horrible tale.

Rum is a bleak mountainous country: its only remarkable productions are its heliotropes, or bloodstones, and its trap rocks. Both Rum and Eig are approachable on the east side only; the western coast being very precipitous, with a strong swell always rolling in from the Atlantic.

3. But to return to Skye. Armadale Castle, on the south coast of Sleat, the seat of Lord Macdonald, is a modern Gothic building; a third part only of the original plan of which has been completed. The finished portion is a simple broad oblong, with an octagonal solid tower rising on each side of the doorway. It overlooks the sea, and commands an extensive view of the bold rocky ranges of hills opposite, in Glenelg, Knoidart, Morar, and Arisaig, with the openings of Loch Hourn and Loch Nevish. The plantations about the castle are extensive, and it is also surrounded by some fine old trees. Its chief embellishment is a large staircase window of painted glass, representing Somerled of the Isles, the founder of the family, (who flourished in the twelfth century), in full Highland costume, armed with sword, battle-axe, and targe.

Lord Macdonald's estates in the Western Islands are so extensive, and so much indented by the sea, that the coast line of his possessions is, on a rough calculation, supposed to exceed 900 miles, and the number of people on the property to be about 16,000.

There is no accommodation for travellers near Armadale, except a small public-house, a mile to the south of the castle, where a pedestrian might contrive to pass a night. The parliamentary road terminates here; but a district road communicates with the point of Sleat.

In proceeding to Broadford, two miles from Armadale, we pass the church and manse of Sleat, and, at a like interval further on, the house of Knock; beside which are the ruins of an old square keep. Three miles beyond Knock, we come to Isle Oronsay, where there is an admirable natural harbour, now regularly visited by the Glasgow steam-boats, which proceed to Portree; a constant communication being thus kept up between Skye and the south of Scotland. A small *steam-boat inn* is also to be found at Isle Oronsay.

The distance hence to Broadford is nine miles. The road strikes off from Kinloch, a small farm-house at the head of Loch-in-Daal, across the island, and joins the Kyle Rhea road, within about a mile and a half of Broadford. The east coast of Sleat from its southern position and excellent exposure, may perhaps be called the most genial portion of Skye, but in fertility it is far surpassed by Waternish and the north end of Trotternish, in both of which districts there is much arable land of very excellent quality. But for the most part our course through Skye lies through moorland, almost uninterruptedly bleak and dreary, with no features akin to the rich and sylvan beauties of other parts of the country. But Skye is not, therefore, devoid of interest: on the contrary, in the novelty, wildness, and grandeur of some of its scenes, it has as much to boast of as it is deficient in fertility and the softer graces of landscape.

4. We proceed now to conduct the reader into the centre of the island by way of Kyle Rhea and Kyle Akin. The extremities of the strait between Skye and the mainland have been called Kyle Rhea, "King's Kyle," and Kyle Akin or Haken, in commemoration of incidents which occurred on the expedition of Haco, king of Norway, in the year 1263. The ferry at Kyle Rhea is about a third of a mile in breadth, and the tide runs with great velocity through the narrow channel; but the ferry-boats are good, and the crews attentive. On either side stands a solitary public-house, affording pretty good accommodation. From the shores of Skye a very fine view is obtained of Glenelg, with the old barracks of Bernera, and an extended line of coast. The whitewashed houses observable near the barracks, are part of a village which the late Mr. Bruce of Glenelg projected, solely for retired officers; where they might at once enjoy "otium cum dignitate," and the society of old comrades and brothers in arms.

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The stage from Kyle Rhea to Broadford, a distance of twelve miles, is extremely hilly and uninteresting, if we except the view which, in descending, is presented of the celebrated Cuchullins, the hills of Glamack, and the table-shaped summit of Duncaan, which surmounts the island of Rasay. The road is joined by the Kyle Akin road, four miles and a quarter from that place, and rather more than four from Broadford.

5. At Kyle Akin, the late Lord Macdonald contemplated the establishment of a considerable seaport town, and had imposing and splendid plans prepared for it; but the scheme proved quite abortive. The scale of houses fixed upon—two storeys, with attics—was beyond the means of the people, and no man of capital was got to settle in the place; and hence Kyle Akin has never attained a greater status than what about a score of respectable-looking houses can lay claim to; but it possesses a good inn. Close to the village are the ruins of an old square keep, called Castle Muel, or Maoil, the walls of which are of a remarkable thickness. It is said to have been built by the daughter of a Norwegian king, married to a Mackinnon or Macdonald, for the purpose of levying an impost on all vessels passing the kyles, excepting, it is said, those of her own country. For the more certain exaction of this duty, she is reported to have caused a strong chain to be stretched across from shore to shore; and the spot in the rocks to which the concluding links were attached is still pointed out.

6. The village of Broadford consists of only a few houses and the inn, which is a tolerable one. The charges, as in most part of Skye, are moderate.

Sligachan, at the head of Loch Sligachan, fifteen miles distant, is now the first stage from Broadford. Along the Sound of Scalpa the slope of the hill is clad with hazel and birch bushes, among which several little streams are seen precipitating their waters in foamy cascades; and in the autumn months a considerable number of herring smacks are generally to be seen at anchor in the Sound. From hence the road leads along the side of Loch Ainort; and, crossing at its head a small river of the same name, ascends the lower slope of the lofty and precipitous mountains of Glamack. The road to Portree makes a circuit round the head of Loch Sligachan, where the assemblage of mountains at the entrance of Glen Sligachan is not a little striking and remarkable. On

one hand the Cuchullin mountains shoot their naked rocky peaks into the clouds ; on the other, a series of dome-shaped hills rises from the plain, the rounded tops of which, washed bare by the incessant rains, expose to view an uncommonly red, gravelly surface, variegated only with occasional stripes of green sod. In a small fresh-water loch above the commodious and well kept inn of Sligachan, is found that very rare plant the *Eriocaulon septangulare.*

7. The rest of the way to Portree (the king's port or haven, where James V. is said to have lain for some time at anchor on his voyage round Scotland) is an uninteresting moorland, until we approach within three or four miles of the village, to which the road leads through the pastoral valley of Glenvarigil, and along the shores of Loch Portree. In approaching the village, the eye is caught by the bold cliff of the mountain Storr (2100 feet high) and the lofty pinnacles of rock, which, springing from the bosom of the hill at a great elevation, arise steeple like in front of the precipice. Close to the village, the well-enclosed and sheltered fields and thriving plantations, in the midst of which the residence of Lord Macdonald's commissioner is situated, afford a most agreeable and refreshing contrast to the waste and dreary tract through which the tourist has proceeded since leaving Sligachan. The village is prettily situated on the north side of the fine bay of Portree, which, running inland upwards of two miles, affords a safe and spacious harbour, the entrance to which is marked by bold rocky headlands, while in front of the bay, and at a distance of about four miles, extends the Island of Rasay. The village boasts of two branch banks (National and North of Scotland), the parish church, a court-house, a recently erected prison, and a comfortable and well-conducted inn. From the centre of the village there juts into the bay a wooded and craggy promontory, to which the rather cockneyish name of Fancy Hill has been given. On its summit a neat octagonal tower has been built, and walks have been very tastefully formed along its sides, from which delightful views of the harbour and the surrounding country are obtained. In spring and early summer, when the hill is adorned with a profusion of wild flowers, and its woods are instinct with the movements and voices of birds (it is a favourite resort of the cuckoo), a vacant hour cannot well be more pleasantly spent than in a lounge on Fancy Hill. On the top of the hill

there is pointed out the grave of a man who was executed there for murder and robbery about ninety or hundred years ago. His victim was a pedlar, or, in the language of the country, a travelling merchant. He was stabbed with a dirk, and then thrown over a rock on the wild coast of the east side of Trotternish. The murderer escaped apprehension, and wandered through the country for many months, but was at last taken by a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Portree, and hanged on this hill. It is a singular circumstance, that during this wretched fugitive's wanderings he composed a song, which is still remembered, in which the circumstances of the murder are minutely described.

There is direct steam communication with Glasgow (Dunoon Castle and Mary Jane) twice a-week during summer and autumn, and weekly during the rest of the year. Portree has increased considerably since the publication of the last edition of this work. Two or three neat villas have arisen in the vicinity; a handsome Free Church is being erected, and a woollen manufactory, the machinery driven by water power, has been established by Mr. Hogg, under the auspices of the Highland Destitution Relief Board. From this establishment the women of Skye receive unlimited employment in knitting, at a rate of remuneration equal to that paid for similar work in Aberdeenshire; from twenty to thirty persons will be employed in and about the mill itself; and there is every reason to anticipate that the establishment will prove remunerative to its intelligent and enterprising proprietor, and contribute essentially to the welfare of the district.

8. The cliffs towards the mouth of the bay are remarkably fine, and form the commencement of a magnificent range of coast scenery, which stretches along the east side of Trotternish to the Point of Aird. The first portion to Ru-na-bradden consists of high precipitous and continuous cliffs, occasionally broken into successive terraces characteristic of the trap rocks of which they are formed, and presenting no indentations or landing-places. About the centre rises the Storr, a lofty mountain, the sea side of which is quite perpendicular, especially towards the summit, and affords some singular appearances, having poised on its lower acclivity several detached and sharply pinnacled masses of rock of great height. One of these is strikingly like the monument to Sir Walter Scott, in Princes Street, Edin-

burgh ; and, singularly enough, there is a projecting part of the same rock, which, when viewed from a certain point, strongly resembles the bust of the Great Novelist. The tourist ought by no means to omit a visit to Storr, and he will find himself amply repaid, not only by the solitary grandeur of the scene itself, with its

> Crags, knolls, and mounds confusedly hurled,
> The fragments of an earlier world ;

but also by the magnificent view which it commands. Storr is generally visited by the land route, but when the weather is favourable the trip may be combined with a boating excursion. Viewing, as we proceed, a natural bridge of rock in a severed reef running out from Storr, and then visiting the caves at the south entrance of the bay, of one of which Martin, in his Western Highlands, says,—"On the south side of Loch Portree, there is a large cave, in which many sea cormorants do build ; the natives carry a bundle of straw to the door of the cave in the night time, and there setting it on fire, the fowls fly with all speed to the light, and so are caught in baskets laid for that purpose." After leaving the caves the boat will cross to the north headland, and when passing along the fine cliff scenery of the coast of Scorribreck, the party may land and visit a cave, about two miles north from the entrance of the bay, in which Prince Charles Edward found a temporary, but comfortless refuge, when wandering among the Hebrides a hunted and miserable fugitive. It is partially encrusted with stalactite of a yellowish colour, and the entrance is a piece of very picturesquely ornamented natural architecture, gracefully festooned with ivy.

A little further on, the boat will pass the small rocky island of Holm, where, if the party have taken the trouble to supply themselves with hand-lines and bait, some excellent fishing may be had, and then proceed to the beach below Storr. This is a salmon-fishing station during the season ; and not far from the landing-place, a stream, shooting over the face of a lofty cliff, forms a fine cascade. From the beach to the base of the precipice and pinnacles of Storr, there is an ascent of varying steepness, but equivalent to a three miles' walk. Tourists to whom a boating excursion has no attractions, will probably be content to forego the caves and the magnificent cliff scenery, and to approach Storr by land. In doing this they may either pro-

ceed by a track through the fine pastoral farm of Scorribreck for about eight miles, during which, if they be free of the gentle craft of angling, they may have good sport on the hill-lochs of Fadda and Leathan, which they pass on their way, or they may adopt an easier, though more circuitous route, and proceed by the parliamentary road to Snizort, and breaking off at Renitra, advance to Storr through Glenaulton with very little fatigue.

9. From Portree to Dunvegan the distance is twenty-two miles. About six miles from the former village it reaches the head of Loch Snizort, where there is a public-house, and passes by the house of Skeabost (—— Macdonald), fenced by hawthorn hedges, and sheltered by well-grown trees. A little further on, and clustered together, stand the Free Church, the manse, and school-house of Snizort. On the opposite side of the loch are seen the houses of Tote and Skirinish, and the parish church and manse of Snizort; and beyond them the house of Kingsburgh (Donald Macleod, Esq.) About two miles beyond Skeabost is the cottage of Treasland (—— Gray), and a mile further on, the public-house of Tayinlone, being the half-way stage between Portree and Dunvegan.

About a mile and a half from Tayinlone there is an eminence of considerable elevation, which is surmounted by one of those interesting vestiges of antiquity, the duns or round towers. It is a circular dry stone building, the thick walls of which, though dilapidated, remain yet of considerable height, after having weathered the storms of more than 1000 years. The view from this dun is very extensive, including the points of Trotternish and Vaternish, the Minch, and the distant mountains of Harris. Resuming our journey from Tayinlone, we next pass the house of Lyndale, pleasantly situated at the sea-side, surrounded by large fields, and sheltered by thriving wood. The road now approaches the head of Loch Grishernish, and passes Edinbain and Cushletter. In descending to these places—in both of which there are numerous patches of arable land, indicating, by their minute subdivision and defective draining, the disadvantages under which agriculture is pursued in Skye—we obtain a glimpse of the mansion-house of Grishernish on the opposite side of the loch, redeeming, in some measure, by its comfortable and pleasant aspect, the dreariness which generally characterises the routes from Lyndale to Dunvegan.

10. At Fairy Bridge, about three miles from Dunvegan,

the Vaternish road strikes off in a northerly direction, and, proceeding along the northern shore of Loch Bay, passes the farm-house of Bay, the mansion-house of Fasach (Major Allan Macdonald), and the village of Stein, on to Hulin and Ardmore, a district seldom surpassed in the fertility of its arable land, and the excellent quality of its pasture. The village of Stein was established by the Fishery Board, and was once an important station for the herring fishing, but its importance in that respect is now at an end, the herring shoals having almost wholly abandoned the west coast of Skye, and betaken themselves to the sounds and lochs on the east side. A manufactory of tile-drains was a few years ago established by Macleod of Macleod, at Bay, but the subsequent misfortunes of that estimable and public-spirited proprietor, brought the undertaking to a premature close.

11. After leaving Fairy Bridge, the parliamentary road approaches and passes close to the plantations which surround Dunvegan Castle. This venerable and imposing structure, which possesses at once all the amenities of a modern residence, and the associations connected with the far-away and barbarous time in which it originated, stands near the head of a long bay, interspersed with numerous and flat islands, and formed by two low promontories, between the extremities of which are seen the distant mountains of the Long Island. To the west are two hills, which, from their singularly flat and horizontal summits, are called Macleod's Tables. The castle stands upon a rock projecting into the water, and protected by a stream on one, and a moat on another side: it occupies three sides of an oblong figure enclosing an open area on the side next the sea, which is laid out as a parterre, and fenced by a low wall, pierced with embrasures. It is a very ancient, highly imposing, and extensive structure, still in perfect repair, and is the family seat of Macleod of Macleod. There are two towers, one of which is said to have been built in the ninth, the other was added in the thirteenth century. The walls of the former are from nine to twelve feet thick, and contain many secret rooms and passages. Very considerable alterations have lately been made on the edifice. The north wing, which was modern, has been replaced by a building to correspond with the rest of the castle. The walls of the centre building, which had been slated, have been raised and surmounted by embrasures, as on the great tower; turrets placed at all the

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corners, and the flag-staff tower raised two storeys. The interior has undergone much alteration and improvement, and altogether, Dunvegan is now one of the finest buildings of its kind, and one of the most comfortable residences in the Highlands. The best point of view is the slope of the hill to the south of the castle; whence the long vista, formed by the island-studded bay, and terminated by the blue mountains of the outer Hebrides, composes an admirable back-ground.

Several antiques are preserved in the family of Macleod, the most remarkable of which are, the fairy flag, the horn of Rorie More, and a very old drinking cup, or chalice. Of the fairy flag, only a small remnant is now left: its peculiar virtue was, at three different times to ensure victory to the Macleods, on being unfurled when the tide of battle was turning against them. Twice has it been produced with the desired effect; but the return of peaceful times has precluded any further occasion for its services, and a portion of its magical influence is still in reserve for a future emergency. The fairy flag, which is of a stout yellow silk, is said to have been taken by one of the Macleods from a Saracen chief during the crusades; but the probability is, that it had been a consecrated banner of the Knights Templars. The Horn of Rorie More, a celebrated hero of the house of Macleod, has a curve adapted to the bend of the arm, by the aid of which its contents can be conveniently transferred to the mouth, on slightly raising the hand. Each young chief, on coming of age, should, by ancient custom, drain at a draught this lengthy wine cup full of claret, being a magnum of three bottles. The literal achievement of this feat belongs to the manners and men of the olden times, and the greater part of the horn is now, by a proper and allowable device, filled up when the ceremony is to be performed. The chalice is a piece of antiquity of most venerable age and curious workmanship; it is about a foot in height, rests on four short legs, and is made of a solid block of oak, richly encased and embossed with silver, on which is a Latin inscription, in Saxon black letter, engraved in a very superior style, which, translated, is as follows:—

Ufo, the son of John,
The son of Magnus, Prince of Man,
The grandson of Liahia Macgryneil,
Trusts in the Lord Jesus,
That their works will obtain mercy.
O Neil Omi made this in the year of God
Nine hundred and ninety-three.

It is said to have been part of the spoil taken from an Irish chief, "Nial Glundubh"—Niel of the Black Knees. The author of the admirable Statistical Report of this parish doubts the correctness of the century; the first nine being very indistinct, and the introduction of the Arabic numerals into Europe having been only two years previous to 993, and their use not at all common in western Europe for a considerable time thereafter. It is, however, unquestionably of great antiquity, and a very interesting object. These relics accord well with the high antiquity of the family of Macleod, descended from Liot, or Leod, son of Thorfinn, son of Torf Einar, first Earl of Orkney, and grandson of Rognvallar of Norway, brother of the famous Rollo the Dane, founder of the duchy of Normandy. Leod settled in Lewis, and the Macleods of Macleod, or of Skye, are descended from his son Tormoid, and settled in this island in the tenth century, while the Lewis Macleods are sprung from Leod's other son, Torquil.

12. There is a very good inn at Dunvegan. On the west side of the bay, opposite Dunvegan Castle, stands the farm-house of Uiginish, now the residence of the parish minister of Durinish. A few miles further down the bay, and close to the shore, is seen the pleasantly situated mansion-house of Husabost, the residence of Nicol Martin, Esq., on whose property, and still farther down the bay, is the farm of Borreraig, once the site of a school or college of pipers, instituted by the MacCrimmons, long the hereditary pipers of the Macleods, and the acknowledged most accomplished masters of pipe-music in the Highlands, adding, for several generations, to musical talent other equally distinguishing qualities. A cave, opening towards the bay, is pointed out as the place where the disciples received their instructions, and one may fancy that, issuing from the rock, and mingling with the sounds of the wind and waves of a wild Highland loch, even the strains of the bagpipe may have been softened into sweetness and melody. The course of instruction was systematic and protracted. Macleod bestowed on them the farm of Borreraig, rent free; but when rents rose, having proposed to resume one-half, but to secure the remainder to MacCrimmon in fee, the sensitive musician broke up the establishment; and from that day the Borreraig MacCrimmons dropped their professional cultivation of the great Highland instrument, though it is believed their representative, now an

officer in the British army, retains more characters of his race than the family name. A similar establishment existed in Trotternish, at a place called Peingowen, which was settled by M'Donald on his pipers, the M'Arthurs; and a little green hill, called Cnocphail, was their daily resort, and that of their pupils. Among the other most celebrated pipe performers in the Highlands were the Macgregors of Fortingal, the Mackays of Gairloch, the Rankins of Coll, and the M'Intyres of Rannoch.

13. Adjoining Borreraig, and extending to Dunvegan Head, is the farm of Galtrigil, on which is a stone of no little celebrity, called Clach Modha, or the *Manners' Stone*. It is a flat circular stone, on which, it is said, written characters, probably Runic, might formerly be traced; but if so, they are no longer distinguishable, and the stone is now interesting chiefly from its mystic virtue in communicating to all who sit upon it a degree of politeness and good manners not otherwise attainable. Should a desire of testing the efficacy of this Hebridean rival of the celebrated Blarney Stone of Ireland lead any tourist to Galtrigil, it will be worth his while to extend his walk for a mile further, to Dunvegan Head, and enjoy the prospect which that promontory offers of the shores of the Long Island, as they dimly appear on the opposite side of the Minch. On the face of a precipitous cliff near Dunvegan Head, a curious phenomenon has been occasionally, though rarely, observed. A jet of vapour or smoke, resembling the column of steam discharged from the escape-valve of a steamer, has been seen to issue horizontally from the face of the cliff. This eruption of vapour is always preceded by a rumbling noise, which continues for some time, and increases in loudness, until the appearance of the vapour or smoke. This phenomenon was described to us by three several individuals resident in Galtrigil, one of whom mentioned, in order to give an idea of its continuance, that a boy who was herding near the scene, on one of the occasions when the phenomenon was observed, came running to our informant's house, which was nearly a mile distant, in a state of much excitement, to tell of the wonder he had witnessed, and our informant having proceeded to the place, arrived in time to hear the noise and see the eruption.

Extending westerly from the foot of Macleod's Tables, and opening upon Loch Poltiel, is the fine arable valley of Glendale, about the centre of which, shaded by venerable trees, is the

farm-house of Hummir, once the residence of the enthusiastic and credulous author of the Treatise on the Second Sight, a curious tract, which has been reprinted in the Miscellanea Scottica. Thence, a short walk through the moor of Millevaig leads into the secluded glen of Vaterstein, the soil of which is of excellent quality, terminating in the rocky peninsula of Feast, the most westerly point in Skye.

14. We may here most fittingly allude to the, in this country, unprecedented and pitiable story of Lady Grange. This gentlewoman, the lady of Lord Justice Clerk Grange. brother of the Earl of Mar, having, contrary to her husband's wish, become privy to his and others being in concert with the rebel chiefs of the 1715, and being on bad terms with each other, it was resolved, at a hasty conference of some of the leading persons, that it was necessary for their safety to have her removed to a remote part of the country. The chiefs of Macleod and M'Donald undertook her seclusion, and she was conveyed away by force, two of her teeth being knocked out in the struggle. Meanwhile, a report of her death was got up. The unfortunate lady was confined for some time in some miserable hut in Skye; she was then transported to Uist, thence to St. Kilda, where she was detained seven years. From that she was carried back to Uist and Skye. While there she ingeniously enclosed a letter in a ball or clue of worsted, which was sent with others for sale to the Inverness market. The purchaser forwarded the letter to its destination. The consequence was, that government despatched a vessel of war in search of her. But even the awakened vigilance of the authorities was unavailing. This persecuted woman was reconveyed to Uist, her conductors having by them a rope with a running noose and a heavy stone attached, wherewith to commit her to the deep should occasion require. She finally died in Waternish, and was buried in the churchyard of Trumpan, in that parish. The perpetration and the impunity of such a course of outrage strikingly illustrates the lawless state of the Highlands and Islands previous to the Disarming Act.

15. We have already said that the Portree and Dunvegan road has been extended through Durinish and Bracadale to Sligachan, a distance from Dunvegan of about twenty-four miles. This extension of the road is very interesting to the tourist, as it opens up to him the fine scenery of Bracadale and

Talisker, while it induces him to prosecute his wanderings, by removing all necessity for retracing his steps by the dull road between Dunvegan and Portree. Leaving the inn of Dunvegan, the road passes close in front of the castle, and thence by Kilmuir, where stands the neat parish church of Durinish, by Vatten, Feorlig, Caroy, Ose, Ebost, and Ulinish, to Struan, near the head of Loch Bracadale, where there is a small but comfortable public-house, which conveniently divides the distance to Sligachan. On the farm of Feorlig, and close to the road, are some sepulchral cairns of considerable magnitude. At the head of Loch Caroy stands the only Episcopal chapel in Skye, a small but neat building. The cure is at present, and for some time back has been vacant. A few miles further on, on the farm of Ulinish, stands the best specimen to be found in the island of the Danish dun or burgh, and which is described by Dr. Johnson in his Journey to the Western Islands. From the inn of Struan, the road proceeds close to the church of Bracadale, round the head of Loch Struan, and thence, ascending the hill above Gesto, goes on to Drynoch, at the head of Loch Harport, and thence through a fine pastoral valley to Sligachan, where it rejoins the road to Portree. The whole route from Dunvegan to Sligachan is very pleasing, and contrasts favourably with the other lines of road in Skye, which seem, as if of set purpose, to have been drawn along the bleakest and dreariest tracts of the island.

16. The road to Talisker breaks off from the Bracadale road at the head of Loch Harport, on the south side of which it proceeds. The distance from Sligachan to Talisker is thirteen or fourteen miles. About four miles from Talisker, and on the shore of the loch, is Carbost, the site of a distillery, where whisky is manufactured, which, in the opinion of every genuine *Skyeman*, is unrivalled in excellence. Around the distillery there is a large extent of arable ground, improved and brought into admirable cultivation by the spirited proprietors of that establishment, Messrs. H. and K. M'Askill. The road from Carbost to Talisker is wild and dreary, giving no indication of the beauty, warmth, and fertility of the sheltered valley into which it rather abruptly descends. The house of Talisker (Hugh M'Askill, Esq.) stands at the head of a singularly rich, flat vale, scooped out, as it were, from the line of lofty and precipitous rocks which fences that part of Skye, lying open to

the sea on the west, and almost encircled in every other direction by impending high grounds. The house is surrounded by sycamores and other trees, of venerable age and large growth, and it possesses a garden, the products of which, in fruit and flowers, may vie with those of the gardens of the most favoured parts of Scotland. Behind the house rises a singularly shaped rock, which may be ascended with some little difficulty, and commands an extensive prospect. From the cliffs around descend many cascades, more than one of which present at times a singular spectacle, for the water, rushing from the edge of the cliff, is met by the blast, and carried up in a thin, curved column, like the smoke from a cottage chimney, which, falling into its former channel behind the ledge, again and again renews its unsuccessful efforts to descend to the lower level.

17. We will now return to Loch Snizort, for the purpose of shortly describing the district of Trotternish, along the west side of which a parliamentary commissioners' road has been opened to the extent of about fourteen miles, terminating about a mile and a half beyond the Bay of Uig. It strikes off from the Dunvegan road, within a short distance of the head of Loch Snizort. Trotternish is the richest district in Skye, and contains a good deal of excellent arable ground. Passing the church and manse of Snizort, about two miles from the latter, we leave on the left the house of Kingsburgh. The circular Bay of Uig is distant five miles from Kingsburgh; and, in the words of a late eminent writer, whose works, on their first appearance, occasioned no slight sensation in this and other remote quarters of the Highlands "presents one of the most singular spectacles in rural economy—that of a city of farms." The sloping sides of the bay are crowded with houses; and each cultivable patch of land has found an industrious and successful occupant. At the head of the bay the ground rises steeply, and environs about a couple of hundred arable acres, in which some six hundred people live in a scattered hamlet. A short way from Uig is the old house of Monkstadt, or Mougstot, for some time the seat of the chief of the powerful family of MacDhonuill, after Duntulm Castle, the ancient family residence, had fallen into ruins. On an islet, in a lake, imperfectly drained, adjoining Monkstadt, are the remains of a religious house; whence, no doubt, its name is derived, and as in other parts of Skye the remains of round towers or Danish forts, and

of stone circles, are frequent. Duntulm Castle stands near the point of Trotternish, about seven miles farther on. Little of it now remains, and it was in no respect different from the ordinary towers on other parts of this coast. On the way to it will be observed some beautiful specimens of columnar basaltic rock, and close by it Lydian stone occurs in small nodules, or layers. Towards the close of the sixteenth century, the dungeon of Duntulm witnessed the dying agonies of a nephew of Donald Gorm Mor, the then Macdonald, who was here confined for a detected purpose of conspiring against his uncle. He was fed with salt beef, and then denied the means of satiating his craving thirst, in the torments of which he closed his existence. Duntulm was visited in 1540 by a royal fleet, with which James V. proceeded to the Hebrides, to quell the turbulent island chiefs, several of whom, including Macleod of Lewis, Macleod of Dunvegan, and several chieftains of the clan Macdonald, he carried prisoners to the south.

18. There is a remarkable bowl-shaped hollow called Quiraing, on a hill top, or rather in the heart of a hill, on the east side of Trotternish, about three miles distant from Steinscholl Bay, and twenty-two miles from Portree, by a good road. It is approached from Uig, from which it is distant about seven miles. It resembles the crater of an extinct volcano. The hill may be about a thousand feet in height, and it presents to the north-east a front of rugged basaltic precipices, over which various little streamlets occasionally trickle. In the hollow is a level oblong green platform, measuring 100 paces by 60, and around rises on all hands a circle of rocks, for most part innaccessible, rising from the surrounding declivities, and which shoot up above into detached columnar and pyramidal masses of varied figure. Through the intervening chasms confined views are obtained of the sea and surrounding country. As may be readily conceived, the effect, whether of sunshine or mist, streaming or circling amidst the broken summits of this deeply imbedded and secluded spot, is not a little singular. The main inlet is by a steep narrow passage, the access to which is strewed with broken fragments of stone, and near the entrance of which stands an isolated needle-shaped rock.

19. Trotternish has long been familiar to the public as the scene of some of Prince Charles Edward's adventures.

Under the escort of Flora Macdonald—a name which, as

Dr. Johnson predicted, *will live in history*—he, in the course of his wanderings, after the battle of Culloden, landed from the Long Island.* Miss Macdonald repaired to Mougstot to communicate to Lady Margaret, lady of Sir Alexander Macdonald, and who had been expecting the Prince, notice of their arrival. Sir Alexander had withheld himself from the rebellion, though one of the first applied to on the Prince's landing. He, however, had a leaning to the cause, and the fugitive adventurer found a stanch friend in his lady in the day of need. The Macdonalds have the proud distinction of having been almost exclusively the first to join the Prince; and to them he was peculiarly indebted, during his eventful and extraordinary wanderings, when the sun of his prosperity had for ever set. No wonder, then, that in parting with Captain Roy Macdonald at Portree, he should thus have given utterance to his regret, that "he had always found himself safe in the hands of the Macdonalds; and so long as he could have a Macdonald with him, he still would think himself safe enough." A party of soldiers were, at the moment of Miss Macdonald's appearance, stationed in the house of Mougstot. Miss Macdonald remained in the house, to converse with the officer in command, while Lady Macdonald, Mr. Macdonald of Kingsburgh, and Captain Donald Roy Macdonald, who happened to be there at the time, in the garden, concerted measures for the Prince's further progress, who had, in the meantime, stayed at the beach. The Prince and Kingsburgh walked together to the residence of the latter, which has been mentioned above. Miss Macdonald proceeded to the same quarter on horseback, along with a Mrs. Macdonald, Kirkibost, North Uist, and their servants; while Captain Macdonald went in search of young Macleod of Rasay, to whose keeping, and that of his kinsmen, the adventurer was shortly afterwards committed.

At Kingsburgh the poor Prince seems to have given way to the overflowings of his heart at the temporary relaxation from the hardships to which he had lately been subjected. His host and he became quite like two intimate friends of equal rank and long acquaintance. The little china toddy bowl was replenished once and again; and it was only after a friendly altercation, on Kingsburgh insisting on removing the bowl, and in the course of which it was broke, that the Prince could be persuaded

* See Long Island, Branch F. of this Section.

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to retire to rest. From Kingsburgh, changing his female habit for the Highland dress, he proceeded next day to Portree, where Captain Malcolm Macleod, and two sons of Macleod of Rasay, took charge of him, and conducted him, first to Raaza, and afterwards to Scorribreck, in Trotternish. At Scorribreck, we are told by Captain Macleod, that he "entreated the Prince to put on a dry shirt, and to take some sleep; but he continued sitting in his wet clothes, and did not then incline to sleep. However, at last he began to nap a little, and would frequently start in his sleep, look briskly up, and stare boldly in the face of every one of them, as if he had been to fight them. Upon his waking he would sometimes cry out, 'Oh, poor England! oh! poor England!'"

Captain Macleod and the Prince went from Scorribreck to Strath, where the old Laird of Mackinnon and Mr. John Mackinnon, Ellighuil, undertook to convey him to the continent of Scotland. The party landed on the south side of Loch Nevish, opposite the point of Sleat, and afterwards sailed up to the head of the lake, making a very narrow escape from a boat with a party of armed men, by whom they were pursued. They directed their steps to Borradale. Meantime, the military hearing of his having landed, had adopted precautions which promised to render escape impossible, having placed a chain of sentinels within sight of each other, between the terminations of the various long arms of the sea and fresh-water lakes, by which the country is indented from Loch Hournhead to the head of Loch Shiel. Large fires were at night lighted at the different posts, and the sentinels kept constantly in motion from fire to fire. One only chance was inadvertently left. The sentinels passed each other between the fires, and thus for a few minutes, when their backs were turned, the space between was left unobserved. Accompanied by Mr. Macdonald of Glenaladale, and two other gentlemen of the same name, and by Mr. Donald Cameron, Glenpæan, the Prince skulked about within the enclosed grounds in the most imminent danger; but at length taking advantage of the imperfection in the toils of their adversaries, they succeeded in making their way up the course of a small mountain stream between two posts, towards the head of Loch Hourn.

Hence they hied them to Glen Moriston, and Charles spent three weeks in a cave in a high mountain between that glen

and Strathglass, tenanted by seven men, whose occupation was plunder, yet who, notwithstanding the large price set on the Prince's head, tended him with the greatest fidelity and kindness, putting themselves to much trouble to supply his wants, and even occasionally procuring him the newspapers of the day.

Removing to Lochaber, the Prince for some weeks lived concealed, along with Mr. Cameron of Clunes, among the recesses of the woods and mountains bordering Loch Arkaig and Loch Lochy. At last he was enabled to join Lochiel and Cluny, who were securely secreted on the confines of Perthshire, and with whom he remained for about three weeks, in the memorable *cage*, a half aerial habitation, in the rocky face of Benalder, amidst the even now remote solitudes of Loch Ericht. Here intelligence reached him that two French vessels, sent on purpose, were lying waiting him in Loch-na-Nuagh; whither he immediately hied him with his friends: "and thus was he destined," as Mr. Chambers remarks, "like the hare, which returns, after a hard chase, to the original form from which it set out, to leave Scotland, where he had undergone so long and so deadly a chase, precisely at the point where he had set foot upon its territory." A considerable body of fugitives, with their friends, were soon assembled upon the shore, opposite the vessels. The unfortunate prince attempted to brave the desperation of his fortunes, by holding out prospects of a brighter season, when he should return under circumstances to insure the means of recompensing his gallant Highlanders for all their devotedness, and all its consequences. "But the wretchedness of his present appearance was strangely inconsistent with the magnificence of his professed hopes. The many noble spirits who had already perished in his behalf, and the unutterable misery which his enterprise had occasioned to a wide tract of country, returned to his remembrance; and looking round him, he saw the tear starting into many a brave man's eye, as it cast a farewell look back upon the country which it was never again to behold. To have maintained a show of resolution under circumstances so affecting, was impossible. He had drawn his sword in the energy of his harangue, but he now sheathed it, with a force which spoke his agitated feelings; he gazed a minute in silent agony, and finally burst into a flood of tears. Upwards of a hundred unfortunate

gentlemen accompanied him on board; when the anchor being immediately raised, and the sails set, the last of the Stuarts was quickly borne away from the country of his fathers."*

The remains of Flora Macdonald, latterly Mrs. Allan Macdonald of Kingsburgh, after an eventful life, of which part was passed in North Carolina during the American war, lie interred within the Kingsburgh burying-ground, in the churchyard of Kilmuir, in Trotternish. She died in 1790. A good portrait of her may be seen in the town hall of Inverness.

We are aware of the geological appearances of Skye being extremely important and interesting, though the plan of our present volume does not admit our enlarging on them. The preceding sketch, and the next division of the present section of our subject, will be found, we trust, to contain a sufficient number of practical directions to the tourist, and descriptions of all the general features and most important objects in the island.

SECTION EIGHTH.—BRANCH E.

DIVISION II. SKYE.—CAVE OF STRATHAIRD, CORUISHK, GLEN SLIGACHAN.

The most prominent objects of attraction in Skye. Skye Marble, 1.—Strathaird's Cave, 2.—Sail to Scavaig; Bay of Scavaig and Loch Coruishk; Bruce's Encounter, 3.—Glen Sligachan; The Saddle; Haunts of the Deer; comparison with Glencoe; The Cuchullins; Pass of Hartie Corrie, 4.—General Remarks on Skye; Kelp; The Caschrome; Farming; Quern, 5.—Dwellings, 6.—Dress of the Islanders; Hospitality; Women's Apparel; Ornaments, 7.—Population; Croft System; Poverty and recent distress; Change in the Condition of the Highland peasantry in progress, 8.

1. The Spar cave, Scavaig, and Coruishk, Glen Sligachan, and the Cuchullins, are the objects which chiefly induce the stranger, except he be a geologist, to visit Skye. The attention of travellers has hitherto been chiefly directed to the Spar Cave and Coruishk, and Glen Sligachan is comparatively but little known; though it will be found equally worthy of observation. As all three can be comprehended in one—a long day's excursion—we recommend tourists to arrange their plans so as to combine this last scene with the others, as it can be compared

* See Chambers' Rebellion and Jacobite Memoirs of 1745.

only to Glencoe; but may be said, like Coruishk, in some points to surpass that celebrated spot in the very characters for which it is supposed unrivalled in this country.

In proceeding to view these objects from Armadale or Isle Oronsay, it is necessary to ride across to Gillean (which can be done in about two hours), or any other point on the opposite coast of Sleat, where a boat can always be procured. If we wish to visit them from Broadford, we cross through Strath to Kilbride, a distance of five miles, and there take boat. In Strath there are quarries of marble, which were worked for a short time, but are now greatly neglected. The marble is chiefly of a light grey colour, of which a very fine mantle-piece is to be seen at Armadale; but some blocks are found as pure and close-grained as the finest statuary marble. Had Armadale Castle been built of masses from these quarries, which it could have been at no great additional expense, Skye might boast of one of the greatest architectural curiosities in Scotland. It may be proper to add, that Strathaird's cave can be approached from Sconser or Glen Sligachan, and that a boat can be procured at some huts, about a mile to the west of the cave. Coming from Kilbride, we pass the house of Mr. M'Allister of Strathaird.

2. Of the objects before us, this cave first demands attention. It occurs on the north side of Loch Slapin, on the west coast of Skye, and occupies the further extremity of a long, straight, deep, and narrow excavation, which the sea has made in the face of a high and perpendicular range of cliffs, such as are so common in the Orkney Islands, and there technically termed Ghoes. As the sea often dashes with violence into this narrow recess, the approach is, at times, difficult. On first entering, the cave has the appearance of an ordinary fissure, gradually widening as we advance; but we soon come to an inclined plane of rock, covered with a beautiful white and hard calcareous deposit, the walls on each side being also encrusted with a coating of the same substance. The inclination of this plane is pretty steep; and the surface, from its glistening appearance, seems so slippery, that one hesitates before attempting to climb it. It is sufficiently rough and granular, however, to admit of safe footing; and having surmounted this little acclivity, we are ushered into a lofty chamber, lined from top to bottom by, and paved with, translucent and white stalactite. The surface

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of the floor is unequal, and the further extremity of the gallery is occupied by a deep and clear well. On the inner side of this well the rock has assumed a fanciful and gigantic resemblance to a human figure, which, in its robes of pure white, may be regarded as the guardian genius of this beauteous sparry grotto. Not many years ago, large stalactites hung from the roof, and there were even some pillars extending from the floor to the ceiling; these have, however, been unfortunately destroyed, and the cave has not altogether recovered from the effects of the injudicious introduction of tar torches, instead of candles, which are generally used.

3. From Strathaird to Coruishk is a long sail round the projecting headland of Aird. In the western horizon are seen the islands of Rum, Muck, and Eig, and, more near, a small island called Soa.

The Bay of Scavaig, into which Loch Coruishk discharges itself, is a scene of almost unexampled grandeur; and, being less confined than the latter, presents an interesting difference of character. It is flanked by stupendous shivered mountains of bare rock, which shoot up abruptly from the bosom of the sea. They are of a singularly dark and metallic aspect, being composed of the mineral called hyperstein. On the left are three shattered peaks:—Garbshen, or "the shouting-mountain," Scuir-nan-Eig, "the notched peak," and Scuir Dhu, "the black peak;" and on the opposite side is a similar and very high hill, called Scuir-nan-Stree, "the hill of dispute," or "the debateable land." A little island at the base of Scuir-nan-Stree is styled Eilan-nan-Lice, "the island of the slippery step," from a dangerous pass in the face of the rock, which makes it imprudent in a stranger to visit these scenes by land.

The river which falls into Scavaig Bay is not above 250 yards in length. Ascending its rocky channel, we suddenly find ourselves on the margin of a fresh-water lake. Loch Coruishk is a narrow lake, about two miles in length, from the edge of which, on all sides, rise naked, lofty, and precipitous mountains, of the same dark, barren, hyperstein rock, and furrowed with numerous hollows, or corries. A few rocky islets, partially covered with dwarf mountain-ash and long grass, afford a secure nestling-place to flocks of sea-gulls, which are the only living creatures to be seen, unless a stray goat be descried among the recesses of this wilderness, where they are

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become as wild and uncontrolled as on Robinson Crusoe's island of Juan Fernandez. An inclined, rugged, and irregular platform of sharp-surfaced naked rock, with detached rocky masses, and a stunted sward interspersed, immediately encircles the waters of the lake, and enhances its sterile desolation, except at the upper extremity, where it gives place to a grassy plain of refreshing verdure, where the red deer oft times resort.

We are now treading on classic ground. It was here the Bruce encountered Cormac Doil; and the scenes around have been celebrated by the gifted pen of our great poet and novelist. Perhaps few of his vivid descriptive passages are more felicitous than the following:—

"The wildest glen, but this, can show
Some touch of Nature's genial glow;
On high Benmore green mosses grow,
And heathbells bud in deep Glencroe,
And copse on Cruchan-Ben;
But here—above, around, below,
On mountain or in glen,
Nor tree, nor shrub, nor plant, nor flower,
Nor aught of vegetative power,
The weary eye may ken.
For all is rock at random thrown;
Black waves, bare rocks, and banks of stone,
As if were here denied
The Summer sun, the Spring's sweet dew,
That clothe with many a varied hue
The bleakest mountain side."

These lines by no means exaggerate the barren grandeur of Coruishk; indeed, it is impossible to do justice to this rude scene. The grisly acclivities rise so abruptly, and encompass so closely the dark and narrow lake, that, but for the reflection of the sunbeam, its shores might almost be said to be veiled in eternal night; while, frequently, dense vapours, curling round the circling rocks, bestow an indistinctness of form and outline the eye of Superstition might quail to contemplate. The remoteness of this solitude, and the gloomy silence that reigns, and the savage forms that surround it, impress a solemn seriousness on the mind. Few, indeed, finding themselves on the shores of Coruishk, can, with reason, refuse to exclaim with the Bruce—

——— "A scene so wild, so rude as this,
Yet so sublime in barrenness,
Ne'er did my wandering footsteps press,
Where'er I happ'd to roam."
Lord of the Isles, canto iii.

4. Glen Sligachan terminates in a bay adjoining Scavaig to

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the south, whence it stretches across the Island to Loch Sligachan. A farm-house at the west end of the glen, called Camusunary, (Mr. Mac-Rae), is the only dwelling-place to be seen along the shores of this remote region, where its white walls, its freestone window-lintels, its slates, and green door, are viewed with the agreeable surprise one feels at unexpectedly meeting old friends. Mr. Mac-Rae's boat is, of course, the only one to be had; and, as his shepherds are seldom at hand to man her, it is imprudent in the traveller to pass through Glen Sligachan on his way to Coruishk. He should proceed to it by boat, from Sleat or Kilbride, and reserve Glen Sligachan for the latter part of his day's excursion. We would warn him, however, that he will take three or four hours to walk to the inn at the other end of the glen, (eight miles distant). The bottom of the valley is very uneven, and quite pathless, excepting the track which has been worn by the few ponies which pass the way: the burns, also, are numerous, and after rain swell very suddenly, and sometimes to a considerable depth.

The extreme breadth of the valley, between the precipitous parts of the mountains, may be about a mile; in some places they approach within a few hundred yards of each other. A river runs out at either end, fed by numerous torrents, which channel the sides of the mountains. The western one, and the river Scavaig, abound with salmon. On either side of the rivers is a tract of broken, sloping, rocky moorland, out of which the mountains tower up on very abrupt acclivities. They are chiefly composed of the same black-looking hyperstein rock which surrounds Coruishk; and are almost equally destitute of vegetation, except some of the declivities, which are tinted with patches of verdure. Near Camusunary are two small lakes, Loch-nan-Aanan, "the lake of fords," and Loch-na-Creich, "the lake of the wooded valley," a name certainly not applicable to its present condition, but which, with the appearance of some stumps of trees among the moss, prove this, like many other parts of the Highlands, to have been once covered with wood. The first mountain on the west, next Camusunary, is Scuir-nan-Stree, already noticed as dividing the glen from Coruishk; and opposite it is Blaven, (Blath Bhein), a long, sharply-ridged, and pointed mountain, not properly one of the Cuchullin group, but of the same distinctive character. One ascent of this latter mountain is peculiarly hazardous, as, at a part called "The

Saddle," the top of the ridge is for two yards scarcely above a foot in breadth. We have met with shepherds who have crossed this dangerous pass; to them the steepest hills in the neighbourhood are accessible, but they declared some of the pinnacles to be so needle-peaked, that a man could hardly venture to stand on the top of one of them.

The next mountain to Blaven, is Ruadhstach; and the lofty and perpendicular one beyond it is Marscodh. Both are favourite haunts of the red deer, who may generally be descried browsing about the summit. Among the singular assemblage of pinnacles on the west side, above Sligachan, are Basader and Scuir-nan-gillean, the highest of that extensive and peculiar series of mountains included in the general term, Cuchullin, several of which, with Blaven, and others on the south of the glen, exceed 3200 feet in altitude. On the rough sides of Glen Sligachan are reared large flocks of goats.

The mountains of this wild glen are considerably higher, and not less savage than those of Glencoe. The two contrast in that the gigantic barriers of Glencoe are more perpendicular, and hem in the glen more closely—meeting the eye at times, especially in the descent from King's-house, in close proximity, challenging emotion by their impassable and threatening front; while in Glen Sligachan, the character is that of a vast display of dark, naked rock, which, if it lose in impressiveness, from being less absolutely precipitous, and also in being further removed from the spectator, compensates by comprehending the full expanse of the mountain acclivities, from base to summit, in continuous sheeted masses of naked sterility, on a scale rarely to be witnessed, and assuming in the mountain outlines very marked, and even fantastic features. The scenery of the Cuchullins is rendered the more effective from the mountains springing almost from the sea level: thus presenting elevations as striking as inland mountain countries of much greater actual altitude. In traversing the solitudes, too, we feel a constant, and almost painful consciousness, that no other form of mortal mould exists within their desert precincts. A solemn silence generally prevails, but is often and suddenly interrupted by the strife of the elements. The streams become quickly swollen, rendering the progress of the wayfaring stranger not a little hazardous; while fierce and fitful gusts issue from the bosom of the Cuchullins. The heaven-kissing peaks of this

strange group never fail to attract a portion of the vapours, which, rising from the Atlantic, are constantly floating eastward to water the continent of Europe; and fancy is kept on the stretch, to find resemblances for the quick succession of fantastic appearances which the spirits of the air are working on the weather-beaten brow of these hills of song.

Instead of being conveyed to Camusunary, and proceeding from thence along Glen Sligachan, the latter may be reached across a wild pass, called Hartie Corrie, which traverses the Cuchullins, and gives the advantage of, in going, a grand mountain ravine, while it leads into Glen Sligachan at a point where the most imposing view is presented of the Cuchullins. Let not the view-hunter, however, select this mode of approach to Coruishk. The fatigue of the walk helps to blunt the appreciation of its characteristics, and the previous familiarity with scenes of gloomy grandeur, tends to, perhaps, a degree of disappointment of the expectations entertained. The first impression, indeed, looking down upon Coruishk from the high hill which separates it from Hartie Corrie, is perhaps one rather of savage beauty, though unquestionably to adopt a bold image—"beauty reposing in the lap of terror."

5. In concluding our remarks on Skye, we may observe, that black cattle, sheep, and kelp form its chief riches. For the sale of the former, two or three markets are held annually at Portree. Kelp is formed by burning sea-ware, previously dried in the sun, in small circular and oblong pits, attended by men to rake the crackling ingredients. The smoke of these pits spreads during the summer months in dense volumes round the shores, and diffuses a disagreeable pungent odour. This alkaline substance, as is well known, is chiefly used in the manufacture of glass. The best kind is made from the sea-weed cut from the rock, which is generally done every third year; that made from the drift-ware is naturally more impure. During the late war, kelp yielded above £20 per ton. Now, from the introduction of Spanish barilla, and other causes, the price scarcely averages a fourth of that sum. It may be conceived that it is, or at least lately was, a chief source of the revenue of the west coast and Orkney proprietors, from the circumstance of Clanranald's estate having some years produced 1500 tons of this article. We trust that the alleged valuable properties of the recently discovered alkali, called kelpina, may

restore to kelp, as some anticipate, a portion of its former value. The climate of this island is exceedingly damp: the farmers, in consequence, are all provided with wattled barns, having lateral openings, closed only by twigs and boughs of trees, where they are able to dry part at least of their scanty crops in the most rainy seasons. In husbandry, the *caschrome*, or ancient crooked spade, is a good deal used by the poor; it is a clumsy substitute for a plough, with which an active man will sometimes prepare about a fourth of an acre in a day; and is certainly of advantage in the cultivation of their miserable crofts, which are frequently altogether scarcely equal in value to the purchase price of a plough. The *caschrome* is formed either of a stout obtusely angled knee of wood, or two pieces bound together with iron: the upper limb or handle is four or five feet long; the lower about two and a half feet, and shod at the point with a sharp flat piece of iron, which is driven into the soil by means of a lateral wooden peg projecting from the angle, on which the right foot acts. The rest of the farming of the cottars is of a piece with this. Harrowing is performed with a rake, or light harrow with wooden teeth, drawn by a man or woman—for the women put their hands to many a piece of drudgery not allotted to them elsewhere—or this implement is sometimes drawn by a horse, to whose tail it is attached by a straw rope. The people of all classes are extremely partial to drying their grain in iron pots over the fire, before being converted into meal; and till a recent period the whole sheaf was passed through the fire to the entire sacrifice of the straw. No rotation of crops is observed except from potatoes to oats, and from oats to potatoes; and a series of oat crops is often taken till the land is run out, when it is allowed to rest for another term of years useless under weeds. Among the larger tacksmen regular rotation and many improvements are observed, but the dampness of the climate, notwithstanding the accompanying mildness of temperature, is unfavourable to agriculture. The Cheviot sheep are now common.

The *quern*, or handmill, is to be found in some of the remote districts of Skye. It consists of two flat stones, about twenty inches in diameter, selected for their hardness and grittiness. Across the central hole in the upper stone, is a piece of wood, with a small tapering hollow, which fits a wooden pivot on the lower stone. Placing the finger, or a stick, in a hole sunk for

that purpose, close to the exterior edge of the upper stone, it is with the greatest facility made to revolve with the desired velocity; and the whole machine being placed on a sheet, or sheepskin, the grain gradually poured in at the hole in the upper stone, is speedily ground into meal, which falls out at the circumference between the two stones. This seems to have been the first grinding instrument in all countries, and is evidently that alluded to in Scripture:—"Two women shall be grinding at the mill" (that is, one feeding and the other turning it), "the one shall be taken, and the other left."

6. The dwellings of the poorer Hebrideans generally are extremely mean and comfortless. They consist of three apartments, of which the first is appropriated to the cattle, and the access to the whole is through the byre, the door being at the end; and this byre being only cleaned out twice a-year, the consequent filth requires no comment. The apartments are separated by low partitions of stone, board, or wattle-work. In the centre is the sitting-room—the fireplace in the middle of the floor, and the smoke pervading all parts, there being only an outlet in the roof. A rough table, one or two stools, an arm-chair of plaited straw, reserved for the exclusive use of the goodwife, occasionally a rude sofa-bench for four or five persons, and a chair or two, but as frequently mere stones, covered with turf, for seats; and in the innermost, the sleeping-apartment, a couple of bedsteads, filled with heather, ferns, or straw, comprise the bulk of the furniture. The walls are of stone, generally double, the vacancy being crammed with earth. They are at times, particularly in the Long Island, seven or eight feet thick, and form a ledge on the outside, on which a couple of sheep can graze abreast, or two persons might walk round the roof, which is supported by a few rough undressed couples. A single small window, often without glass, is all there is for light. The soot-saturated thatch is commonly removed every year, to serve as manure for the potatoes. The fare of the peasantry is chiefly potatoes, with fish, shell-fish, milk, and a little meal, but little or no animal food.

7. The dress of the Islesmen has always differed from that of the mainland Highlanders. The kilt, which, no doubt, is now falling into general disuse, is not to be met with in Skye, and it seems never to have been worn here. At present, the ordinary fashion of short coats and trousers of coarse cloth uni-

versally prevails. From their frequent boating, one would expect to find the dress of the Skyemen adapted to the seafaring life; but even a cut-away jacket is seldom to be seen. The people have none of those distinctive marks which at once betray the occupation of those curious tribes—the fishermen of the east coasts. Indeed, except during the herring season, these islanders seldom trouble their heads about fishing, unless it be to catch a few rock-cod, lythes, and cuddies, for the use of their families; and even this duty ordinarily devolves on the younger urchins. Various efforts have been made to extend the deep-sea fishing, but, unless under the immediate stimulus of individual enterprize, it does not seem to make sensible progress—except in the Lewis, where the quantity of cod and ling taken is now very considerable—while the more uncertain fruits, and more fitful labour, of the herring fishery finds general favour in all parts of the Highlands and Islands. It is strange that constant exposure to the sea-breeze does not teach the general use, in the Isles, of the small felt bonnet, or some substitute for the common hat, which is generally worn. The west coast Highlanders or Islesmen, when they make their appearance in any of the towns of the east coast, may almost be detected by their hats, from the picturesque shapelessness and amphibious consistency which their head-gear speedily acquires from steeping in the Atlantic mists. The Orkney boatmen, who are more constantly on the water, understand these things better, and by their comfortable *southwesters*—a glazed, or leathern skull-cap, shaped like that of an Edinburgh carter, with a broad flap hanging down behind to protect the neck—give proof of their experienced wisdom. Such a thing as a straw bonnet is rarely to be found among all the female peasantry of Skye, or of the Islands in general. The lasses go bareheaded, trusting to the attraction of the emblematic snood; matrons bedizen themselves with the varieties of the venerable and simple mutch, curtch, and toy; and the clothing of the female population of Skye is hence generally coarse and mean in the extreme.* No comfortable cloak of "guid blue cloath," which many of the east coast Highland wives have added to their wardrobes, is to be seen. The old women throw a dirty *breachdan*, resembling a blanket, over their shoulders: the others have seldom anything to vary their simple gowns of dark blue or brown stuff.

* Straw bonnets and caps are come much more into use of late years in the mainland Highlands.

An air of squalid penury, too, soon settles about them; and in middle age their prematurely-pinched, care and penury-worn features, are far from engaging! Kindly feelings and affections, however, live under this unpromising exterior. The people of Skye and the adjacent islands, and west coast of the adjoining counties, are of short stature, firmly knit, active, and more mercurial than the central Highlanders. Such generalizing observations must of course not be strictly interpreted. The gentry of these parts are wonderfully numerous. They are exceedingly hospitable; and the Southron will, perhaps, be astonished to find in their houses all the comforts and elegancies of life. The ladies are characterized, for the most part, by fair complexions, tall, slender forms, and blue eyes, indicative of their northern origin. The peasant women are remarkable for their industry, at least in spinning; for they are always to be seen with the old rock and distaff in their hands, whether walking or seated by their hearths, or at their cottage doors. A brooch of pewter, brass, copper, or silver, used by the old women to fasten their blanket-plaids in front, is almost the only ornament indulged in. It is often preserved with much care, and handed down from mother to daughter as a valuable family relic.

8. The population, as of the other Hebrides, is very redundant, owing to the system of small crofts, which, becoming subdivided, are too small for the support of a family—a pernicious system, to which the kindly feelings and the cupidity of landlords and tacksmen have been alike tempted: for, while it is painful to the most ordinary sensibility to dispossess the people, the high nominal rents increasing according to the minuteness of subdivision, occasionally may have subserved a purpose, and thus led to the same result as the disinterested and benevolent feelings which, in general, prompt to the perpetuation of the mistaken system. Now the pressure of the recent Poor Laws has alarmed Highland proprietors, and, of late, precipitated more frequent occasional summary ejectments, and compulsory emigration. Unfortunately it too often happens that their own embarrassed or straightened circumstances stand in the way of those gradual changes which humanity and sound policy dictate. The failure of the potatoe crop, occasioning an excessive degree of distress, where, as in the Highlands and Islands, it had been a staple source of sustenance, has contributed to hasten on a general change in the condition of the Highland peasantry. Much difference of opinion prevails as to the best

system for their permanent welfare, as to size of croft and other details; and public attention is kept so much alive on the subject, that though many of the poor Highlanders must needs be subjected to many a bitter pang in their present transition state; and no people endure the ills of life, and the pinching poverty of their lot, with so much of unrepining and quiet endurance, it cannot be doubted that eventual and permanent amelioration must be the result; and it is to be hoped that all persons immediately concerned will act under an increasing sense of responsibility towards those committed by providence in subordination to them. The young men in Skye and other islands go to the south in summer to seek work, and return in winter: the young women for a shorter time in harvest. A large portion of the middle-aged resort to the herring fishing on the east coast, during June, July, and August—a migratory character which is not favourable to morals or religious principle.

SECTION EIGHTH.—BRANCH E.

Miles.

DIVISION III.—BROADFORD TO BROCHEL CASTLE, IN RASAY, 16

Island of Rasay, 1.—Brochel Castle; Tradition respecting, 2.—Dr. Johnson's Remarks on Rasay, 3.

1. THE ruins of Brochel Castle, almost the only object in Rasay (excepting the fossil contents of its rocks) deserving of particular notice, form a scene that may serve as the object of a day's excursion from Broadford. They are situated on the north-east point of the island of Rasay; and, as the distance is fifteen or sixteen miles, it is prudent to take a four-oared boat. On leaving Broadford, we pass a large house by the water-side, belonging to Mr. Mackinnon of Corrychatachan. Our course lies between Scalpa, which possesses no features of any interest, and a low, flat island, called Pabba. Crossing thence to Rasay, we continue to coast along its eastern side, which consists of a range of lofty and perpendicular cliffs, surmounted with patches of cultivated ground. The base of the cliffs is in some places strewed with large fragments of rock, and, looking upwards, we discover that the finger of Time has been marking out other

large portions for similar destruction. The gradual advances, and final triumph of decay, lend additional interest to the high and mural precipices, and afford numerous interesting studies of rock scenery.

2. Brochel Castle stands in a little bay, where the cliffs have sunk to a moderate height; and the site judiciously chosen for it is a conglomerate rock, the upper portion of which is isolated and detached from the surrounding strata. This rock consists of two ledges; on the lower of which, rising from the very edge, is a small building of two low storeys, having a narrow court within it; on the top of the rock has been perched another diminutive building of two storeys, with but one apartment in each, surmounted by battlements and a warder's room. Two triangular and loop-holed recesses adjoining occupy all the remaining space. The castle is quite inaccessible, save by the single approach which has been cut on the side next the sea; and even here the ascent is so steep, as to require the aid of one's hands in climbing it: the entrance is by a steep, narrow, and roofed passage, between the lower building and the rock; and, altogether, it is difficult to imagine a situation more happily adapted for security and defence, in an age when the great engines of modern warfare were unknown.

The following tradition, regarding the building of the castle, is taken from the narrative of an old man, an inhabitant of an adjoining hut. John More M'Gillicallum (a cadet of the family of Macleod in the Lewis, commonly called Shiel Torquill) was hunting in the hills of Glamack, near Sconser, in Skye, accompanied by a henchman, who, from his great size and strength, was distinguished by the name of Gillie-More. Their two dogs, while in pursuit of a deer, had got a considerable way a-head, and out of sight. They were observed from a galley, which was lying at anchor near the shore, by her commander, young Kreshinish, who, seeing the dogs overtake their prey, went ashore, and had them and the deer conveyed on board. Gillicallum coming up, demanded restitution of his dogs: Kreshinish refused compliance, and a scuffle ensued, which was speedily ended by the latter receiving a death-blow from the powerful arm of the Gillie-More. Some time thereafter the elder Kreshinish came to Skye to seek for the murderer of his son; and, being at Dunvegan, in company with Macleod of Dunvegan, M'Donald of the Isles, and John More M'Gillicallum, he, after

dinner, produced a bag of silver, which he said he would give to the man who would discover the name of the murderer. The Gillie-More composedly walked into the hall, acknowledged himself author of the deed, but desired to be allowed to explain the circumstances of it. He then narrated the seizure of the dogs, and how young Kreshinish brought his death upon himself by the uncourteous and unjustifiable detention of them. Seeing no reason to doubt the truth of the story, Kreshinish expressed himself perfectly satisfied; but now the stalwart islesman claimed the promised reward, which the sorrowing father unhesitatingly gave him. The Gillie-More, determined to make a good use of his treasure, offered to give it to his master, John More M'Gillicallum, on condition that he would expend it in building a stronghold; to which the latter cheerfully agreeing, they settled in Rasay, says the tradition, and built the Castle of Brochel.

3. Of the Island of Rasay, Dr. Johnson said with truth, "that it has little that can detain a traveller, except the Laird and his family; but their power wants no auxiliaries. Such a seat of hospitality, amidst the winds and waters, fills the imagination with a delightful contrariety of images. Without is the rough ocean and the rocky land, the beating billows and the howling storm; within is plenty and elegance, beauty and gaiety, the song and the dance. In Rasay, if I could have found an Ulysses, I had fancied a Phœacia."

SECTION EIGHTH.—BRANCH F.

THE OUTER HEBRIDES, OR THE LONG ISLAND.

"As when a shepherd of the Hebrid Isles,
Placed far amid the melancholy main;
(Whether it be lone fancy him beguiles;
Or that aërial beings sometimes deign
To stand embodied, to our senses plain),
Sees on the naked hill or valley low,
The whilst in ocean Phœbus dips his wain,
A vast assembly moving to and fro,
Then all at once in air dissolves the wond'rous show."

THOMSON.

General features; Emigration; Mr. Matheson's Improvements; Botany and Geology, foot-note, 1.—Produce; Fisheries; Distance of Inns; Aspect of the Islands, 2 Cave in Lewis; Antiquities; Monastery and Church at Rodel; Stone Circle at Loch Bernera, 3.—Stornoway; Stornoway Castle, 4.—Implements; Packets; Steam-boat; Road and Inns, 5.—Climate of Long Island, 6.—Storms, 7.—Scenery, 8.—Occurrences in Rebellion of 1745, 9.—Prince Charles' Wanderings, 10.

1. UNDER the general denomination of the Long Island are comprehended that large group of islands called the Outer Hebrides, the principal of which are Lewis, or Lews (the land of Leod or M'Leod, and commonly styled *the Lews*), and Harris, North and South Uist, Benbecula, and Barra; and the whole length of which, from Barra-head to the Butt of Lewis, is about 120 miles. The northern part of this great chain, viz. the Lews (a tract of ground about forty miles in length, and in some places twenty-four in breadth) is in the county of Ross; Harris, though in the same island, and all the other islands belong to the shire of Inverness. Lews, long ago won and retained by the sword as an appendage of the Seaforth family, "high chiefs of Kintail," and head of the Clan Mackenzie, has now, by purchase, passed into the hands of James Matheson, Esq. of Achany and Lews, Member of Parliament for the combined counties of Ross and Cromarty, who is himself a descendant, and the head of the very ancient Celtic race who possessed the Mackenzies' country about Loch Duich and Lochalsh, in the reign of Alexander III. (A. D. 1264). Harris, separated from the Lews by a narrow isthmus of about six miles in width, formerly the property of an old and distinguished branch of the Macleod family, now belongs to Lord Dunmore; Lord Macdonald possesses the whole of North Uist; the island of Benbecula, and great part of South Uist, formerly the property of Macdonald of Clanranald,

is now that of Colonel Gordon of Cluny; and the remainder of South Uist is the inheritance of Macdonald of Boisdale; whilst Barra, with its surrounding isles, belongs also to Colonel Gordon. The whole of these islands, though now completely destitute of wood, with the exception of some ornamental plantations around Mr. Matheson's residence at Stornoway Castle, and a thriving plantation of oak, ash, rowan-tree, and poplars, at Rodel House, in Harris, shew, by the large roots and stems found in the mosses and along the water courses, that they were once well clothed with trees. The surface now (as if a great change of climate had ensued) is everywhere covered with stunted heather and moss, and extensive peat bogs. The islands are all more or less hilly, though not rising to any considerable size, except one hill in Lews, and in the district of Harris where the mountains attain the extreme height of from 2000 to 3000 feet, are there more crowded together, and more rocky and barren than in the other islands. The splintered and spiry granite rocks in some parts of Harris, present scenery of the most picturesque character. To the south of the Sound of Harris, the hilly ground is chiefly confined to the east coast, and is succeeded by a wide tract of flat peat moss. The western shore of the islands consists of a sandy soil, yielding good arable ground. There are here prodigious tracts of *shell sand*, miles in breadth, and the downs along them are covered with the richest vegetation, and present a most brilliant mass of colouring, from the profuse and luxuriant flowers of the white clover, intermingled with innumerable daisies, butter-cups, and diminutive meadow plants.* In summer this part of the country presents an agree-

* In the ruts of streams, lacustrine islets, and clefts of rocks throughout these islands, a few stunted stems may occasionally be seen of the common birch, the broad leaved elm, the rowan-tree or mountain ash, the hazel and aspen, with a few dwarfish willows—*Rubus corylifolius*, *Rosa tomentosa*, *Lonicera Periclymenum*, *and Hedera Helix*, are the only shrubs worth mentioning—(Professor MacGillivray.) *Thalictrum Alpinum* is almost the only *Alpine* plant to be found in Harris. *Ajuga pyramidales*, *Osmunda regalis*, and *Pinguicula lusitanica* occur along a rocky burn about a mile south of Stornoway; but *Menziesia cerulea* is not now to be found in the Shiant Isles. Dr. Balfour, in his report to the Edinburgh Botanical Society in 1841, remarks, that "there is *hardly* a true Alpine or rare plant to be found in the Long Island. The phanerogamous species amount to 316, of which 15 or 1-21 part are true ferns, and 22 belong to the order *Filices Lycopodiaceæ* and *Equisitaceæ*. The geology of the district is equally simple—the whole islands being composed of various modifications of a hard gneiss, with but here and there a basaltic or trap dyke; and in one peninsula to the eastward of Stornoway, a small deposit of old red sandstone conglomerate—the remains of those extensive sheets of sandstone which once united it with the masses of the same rock on the Scottish mainland. In the outer Hebrides there seems to be an unusual scantiness of the debris and gravel beds which cover the rest of the kingdom; but there are in a few places sea margins and ancient terraces, and some beds of deep clay, indicative of the same agencies which elsewhere have given rise to

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able and smiling aspect; but in winter it shares the general desolation of the adjoining islands. On this side the great mass of the population of the southern islands is collected; elsewhere the country is left uninhabited, except in the immediate vicinity of the bays and arms of the sea. Poverty is but too prevalent among the people—a mixed Celtic and Scandinavian race—shell-fish forming almost their only subsistence during the latter summer and earlier autumn months. Yet, under all their privations, these poor people are hardy, cheerful, and contented. Their number is redundant; for which the only remedy appears to be a well-arranged system of progressive emigration.

A deal of angry discussion has of late years taken place on this subject, one party maintaining that there is no necessity for emigration, were the people duly fostered and instructed how to avail themselves of the resources within their reach, in the sea and land, and that it is the duty of the landlords to do everything for them, save turning them away from their native holdings. Another party, on the contrary, maintain that where a population has within 60 years doubled itself, and the great means of their support, in later times, (the *kelp* trade), has vanished, whereby the lower orders have become *pauperized*, it is vain to expect that they can be recovered, except by their engaging in new employments, (as the *deep-sea fishing*), or betaking themselves to new abodes; and that no race of landowners can long afford to let their possessions be occupied by others totally *rent free*. Whatever the necessities, on speculative views, of some of the proprietors may induce them to do, it is fortunate for the great district of the Lews, that it is now in the hands of a gentleman both able and willing to give the experiment, of what can be effected by local improvement and exertion, the fairest and most ample trial. The late proprietrix, the Honourable Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie, (daughter of the last Lord Seaforth), and her husband, the Honourable S. Mackenzie, Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, than whom the Highlanders had no more warm or intelligent friends, introduced

the great *boulder clay* and *drift gravel* of the more recent *tertiary* deposits. These outer ridges of primary gneiss rocks are in fact most interesting, as being in all probability the relics of that great line of elevated mountains, which, ere the last change of level of the ocean in this hemisphere, seems to have extended from the coasts of Spain and Portugal, northwards along the Welsh, Cumbrian, and western side of Scotland, and whence dipped eastwards the shelving strata of secondary rocks which extended to the great European plains, across the bed of what is now the German and Baltic seas.

many spirited improvements (which, however, long absence latterly interrupted), and laid a commencement in the formation of roads and bridges for a regular system of drainage, and an internal communication of the districts with one another. Mr. Matheson has followed up those measures on a more extensive scale, under the superintendence, for a time, of a persevering, though sanguine agriculturist, the late Mr. Smith of Deanstoun. Already he has drained, trenched, enclosed, and brought into culture, nearly 2000 acres of waste land, and of which a large proportion is now under crop, and let to tenants.

There are, we believe, about a hundred times as much more reclaimable ground on his vast property. To overtake its culture must be the work of generations; but meanwhile, the pasturage of the whole is being greatly improved. The most humble of the *tenants* (called *crofters*, from having only small plots or *crofts* to cultivate) have got leases, and are improving their land according to a regular plan—the money being advanced by the proprietor in the first instance, on an annual charge of 5 per cent. interest for the use of it. Besides improving and repairing 80 miles of roads constructed by his predecessors, Mr. Matheson has also formed about 100 miles of new roads, and erected upwards of twenty bridges, thus rendering almost every corner of the island accessible to carriages, exclusive of the improvements in the town of Stornoway, to be afterwards noticed; and, besides his encouragement of the fisheries, he has likewise granted feu rights of building-stances to his villagers on easy conditions—simply binding them to certain general police and sanitary regulations; to perfect the drainage he has erected an extensive brick and tile work, driven by steam, at a locality where the finest clay exists, in an inexhaustible bed; he has formed extensive canals, or general drains, to carry away the moss water where the surface is low; has planted about 800 acres with forest-trees, and has introduced improved breeds of horses and cattle. By a bold and judiciously-managed experiment, Mr. Matheson has likewise succeeded in raising from seed, in several places in the close vicinity of the sea, the celebrated *tussac grass* from the Falkland Islands, a most invaluable succulent plant for all sorts of ruminant animals, and which, should it continue to thrive, will of itself most amply reward his patriotic exertions. Under such auspices, the capabilities of the soil and climate, and the power and energy of the people

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to arouse themselves from their present abject condition, and the occasional risk of starvation, from failures in their potato and grain crops, will be fully tested, and the policy or impolicy of emigration on a great scale demonstrated.

2. The chief product of these islands has hitherto been *kelp*, of which several thousand tons are annually exported; sea-ware being peculiarly abundant, owing to the very extended line of sea-coast, produced by the arms of the sea, by which the Long Island is indented, and the numerous rocks and islands with which the coasts and the passages or straits between the larger islands abound. As an example of the intricate winding of the salt-water lochs, and the number of islands with which they are studded, we may refer to Loch Maddy in North Uist, which covers about ten square miles, and yet the coast line of its numerous windings, creeks, bays, and islands, approaches to three hundred miles. The cod, ling, and herring fishery, are the other chief sources of subsistence for the over-abundant population of these remote islands. A London company have an agent regularly settled at Loch Roag for the purpose of transmitting lobsters to the tables of the London gourmands. A vessel sails weekly for the Thames, constructed so as to contain a large well, in which the fish are conveyed alive, and in this way an average of 15,000 lobsters are sent every week to the London market. Sometimes the number has been as great as 40,000! The agent at Loch Roag distributes from £3000 to £4000 per annum among the men engaged in this traffic. We are delighted to observe, in the Report of the British Fisheries Commissioners for 1849, that the Long Island returns stand as follows:—

	Barrels
Herrings cured	16,438½
Herrings taken and consumed, and not cured	3,500
	Cwt.
Cod, ling, or hake cured	14,090¾
Cod, ling, or hake taken and consumed, and not cured	10,500
Boats employed, decked and undecked	614
Manned by fishermen and boys	3,735
Total number of persons employed	4,900

The formation of a harbour at West Loch Tarbet, in Harris

has proved of the utmost benefit in the prosecution of the fisheries. With the wages they earn in fishing, and the burning of kelp, the poor cottars contrive to eke out the rents of their crofts, which of themselves, at least as formerly managed, are barely sufficient for the maintenance of the persons who labour them. To these means, shell-fish, which are found in great variety and abundance, form a valuable addition. The quantities of these, particularly of cockles, on the shores of the most parts of the Long Island, is almost inconceivable. Sheep are pretty numerous; but these islands are more celebrated for their black cattle and ponies, of which great numbers are annually exported. Red deer, grouse, woodcocks, plovers, and, in some few places, rabbits, are plentiful; and all the varieties of sea-fowl that frequent the coasts of Scotland are found in great abundance, as also eagles, hawks, and other carnivorous birds.

Besides the small tenants, there are in most of the islands tacksmen, who rent large farms, chiefly well educated and gentlemanly men, and distinguished for their hospitality.

The hills are generally too heavy and smooth in their outline, and the cliffs too low, to exhibit much interesting scenery. Indeed, Lewis and Harris alone present any peculiar features; as the openings of Lochs Seaforth and Clay, in the vicinity of Gallanhead and the Butt of Lewis, and the coasts and interior and Sound of Harris; and also the islands of Bernera and Mingalay, at the south of Barra, in the latter of which the rocks are said to be 1200 or 1400 feet in height, and tenanted by prodigious flocks of sea-fowl. Each kind maintains its own peculiar portion of the rock. Their serried ranks of white breasts and red bills, when at rest, are not less remarkable than their dissonant clamour on being roused, when they darken the air with their fluttering masses. But the bird's-eye view from any of the hills is curious, owing to the strange and intricate intermixture of land and water. In addition to the arms of the sea by which the Long Island is cut up, it is also intersected (particularly to the south of the Sound of Harris) with numerous fresh-water lakes. These are generally shallow, and their waters are tinged of a brown colour from the peat, but they abound in trout. They have seldom any inlets or feeding streams, being in many cases mere deposits of rain water—in fact, brooks are rare, except in the Lewis.

3. Of the objects worthy of the traveller's attention, one of the principal is the remarkable cave near Gress, in the parish of Stornoway, which used to be annually invaded by a body of the natives, to despatch the seals, which flock hither in great numbers. It is upwards of 200 yards in length, and is partially covered with stalactite, like Strathaird's Cave in Skye.

As respects antiquities, numerous remains of the circular towers, called Dunes or Burghs, are to be seen on the hills and islands in the lochs. To these last, causeways often conduct from the shore, raised nearly to the present surface of the water. Of the circles of stones so common in the Highlands, and generally designated as Druidical, there are also a great number, called by the natives *fir bhreig*, or *false men*, from their resemblance, when seen at a distance, to the human form. The largest collection of them occurs near Loch Bernera, in Lewis, and which has been figured and minutely described by Dr. Macculloch (Western Isles, vol. i., p. 185). The principal structure consists of a wide circle, with a large central stone, from the circumference of which branch off four lines of upright stones, opposite each other in a cruciform shape. The extreme points of two of these lines are about 650 feet apart, and of the other two about 200 feet. One of those lines consists of a double row of stones, which, like the others, average about four feet in height. There are also some ruins of very early Christian churches, hermits' cells, and other religious houses, in these islands, and of a few nunneries—the last of which are now characteristically called "Teagh nan cailichan dhu"—"The houses of the old black women." The churches and most of the smaller chapels appear to have depended immediately on the monastery at Rodel, or Rowadill, in Harris, founded—as remarked by Spottiswoode, in his Account of the Religious Houses, appended to Keith's Catalogue of the Scottish Bishops—"by Macleod of Harris, and situated on the south-east point of the island, on the sea-coast, under Ben Rowadill." It was one of the twenty-eight monasteries in Scotland belonging to the Canons Regulars of St. Augustine, who here, as at Oronsay and Colonsay, were most likely superinduced, through the influence of Rome, upon more ancient and simple foundations of St. Columba's disciples. The establishment of this monastery (dedicated to St. Clement) is usually ascribed to King David I., but, we believe, on no

good authority. The church is still in tolerable repair; it is cruciform, with a tower about sixty feet high, forming one side of the transept, and which is conspicuous from a great distance. On Norman foundations, the superstructure is of Early English; the altar window is simple but beautiful, and the capitals of the columns have grotesque figures and carvings like those of Iona. There are two nude figures; and, as Dr. Macculloch remarks, "the sculpture presents some peculiarities which are well worthy the notice of an antiquary, and, from their analogy to certain allusions in Oriental worship, are objects of much curiosity."

The most entire, indeed almost the only, castle is on the island of Barra, and was the ancient residence of the Macneils. It is a sort of fort, standing on an islet in Chisamil Bay. Walls about sixty feet high enclose an irregular area, within which are a strong square keep, and other buildings. There is a dock of the exact dimensions of a galley, and good anchorage on all sides of the rock. Martin was informed that, in his time, this building was reputed to be of 500 years' standing. In the island of Eriskay, in the Sound of Barra, is another picturesque ruin, called Castle Stalker, well known to sailors as a landmark.

4. The only town is Stornoway, on the east coast of Lews—a burgh commenced by James VI. to civilize the natives—on reaching which, the stranger is surprised at finding so considerable and flourishing a place in so remote and uninviting a corner. It is a fishing establishment, with several streets of substantial and slated houses, and numerous shops, inns, and public-houses. There is a Masonic Lodge, spacious and elegant Assembly Rooms, with a handsome Reading-room. With the surrounding tract of cultivated fields and plantations, and some remains adjoining of an old castle, said to have been dismantled by Cromwell's soldiery—and the modern castle, separated only by a narrow channel of the bay from the town—and its spacious piers and capacious bay, protected by two low headlands and an island, Stornoway forms a remarkable relief to the prevailing dull, barren, and dreary appearance of the country. Occasionally, from the crowded shipping, it is a place of much life and gaiety. The town's people are distinguished by an eager pursuit of commerce, and the shipping belonging to the port is extensive. It is the seat of a district Sheriff-court. The sea-

beach consists of fine shingle, well adapted for drying fish upon, and on which many tons of fish, piled up in great heaps, may often be seen in various stages of preservation.

Besides promoting the cleanliness and comfort of the town by every means in his power, such as founding gas and water companies, and taking up half the stock of each—laying down a Morton's patent slip, worked by steam, and which will haul up a vessel of 800 tons—constructing a market place for the sale of butcher meat and vegetables to the shipping—purchasing up and completing a neat Episcopal chapel built by subscription, but which had been encumbered with debt;—Mr. Matheson of Lews has also taken a deep interest in the cause of education generally throughout the island, and especially at Stornoway. In the year 1847, he built an industrial female school, with an endowment for the schoolmistress, to which a handsome additional contribution is made by the inhabitants. At this seminary Ayrshire flowering needlework is taught, by means of which the native females are already, like their sisters in the north of Ireland, enabled to support themselves, and that by an employment tending directly to soften their characters and improve their tastes. If this branch of industry shall get fairly rooted, we presume the straw plait manufacture will follow, as in Orkney. Several schools have likewise been built and endowed throughout the island, but hitherto the attendance has been retarded by a disinclination on the part of the parents to lose the services of their children in herding, and an apprehension that education may dispose them to try to better themselves by emigration. To attach himself still farther by personal residence to his adopted island and new tenantry, Mr. Matheson has likewise erected a splendid mansion-house, Stornoway Castle, on the site of Seaforth Lodge. It is a very large building in the castellated Tudor style, erected chiefly of granite found in the neighbourhood, with white sandstone dressings from quarries near Glasgow. The south facade measures 153 feet in length; the eastern or entrance facade 170 feet. The building is of various elevations and projections, and being flat-roofed and battlemented, several portions have a massive tower-like appearance, while different slender towers shoot up above these. The octagon tower (built wholly of Colonsay granite) rises to a height of 94, and the flag tower to 102 feet. There are in all 74 apartments in the castle, and a

spacious corridor extends from end to end. The furnishings are in a style of befitting splendour.*

Stornoway Castle.

5. Many of the people, especially in the south of the Long Island, are Roman Catholics. Early marriages are very frequent among them. Some of the rude-fashioned instruments of husbandry, once common throughout the Highlands, retain their hold here, and the ancient querns or handmills are in almost general use in most of the secluded parts of Lews and Harris, and also in the southern Barra Isles. The islanders of the northern part of Lews, with their long matted and uncombed hair, which has never even been restrained by hat or bonnet from flowing as freely in the wind as their ponies' manes, and their true Norwegian cast of countenance, form perfect living portraits of the ancient Norsemen. The other inhabitants, chiefly of Celtic origin, combine the characters of fishermen and field-labourers; they are distinguished by acuteness no less than simplicity, and, though poor, they are honest and hospitable.

* The population returns of the Lews estate for 1841, were—

Barvas	2040	Average 337,855 imperial acres
Cross (parliamentary parish)	1810	
Lochs	3653	
Stornoway	4581	
Knock (parliamentary parish)	1637	
Uig	3316	
	17,037	

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Small packets, partly supported by government, ply between each of the islands of North and South Uist and Harris to Dunvegan in Skye; and from Stornoway to Poolewe, on the coast of Ross-shire: thus keeping up a regular communication with the mainland. A swift steamer, also, in the summer season, makes trips once a-week from Glasgow to Stornoway, and once a fortnight in winter, driving a thriving trade. She calls once a fortnight at Loch Inver.

In regard to internal means of communication, we have here only to observe further, that Colonel Gordon, in South Uist and Benbecula, has formed about fifty miles of road; that the Countess of Dunmore, as acting for her son the Earl, still in his minority, has made a fine road from Rodel, through Harris, to join those on Mr. Matheson's estates; and that the Highland Destitution Fund has latterly been to some extent employed, both in promoting industrious habits among the peasantry, as fishermen and farmers, and in aiding in the construction of roads and harbours.*

We conclude these general remarks on the Long Island by submitting to our readers the following beautiful description from the pen of, we believe, their native historian, Professor William Macgillivray, now of Aberdeen, which we extract from his very valuable account of the Outer Hebrides, published in the Edinburgh Journal of Natural and Geographical Science for 1830, and which is fully borne out by the recent statistical reports of the local clergyman.

6. "The climate is subject to great variations. It is, however, generally characterized by its great dampness. In every part of the range iron is covered with rust in a few days, and

* At Bayhiravagh, in the mainland of Barra, there is a small inn and two excellent roads, one of ten miles, along the west coast, and the other of eight miles, passing through fine scenery on the east coast. South Uist, where large tracts have recently been reclaimed from the sea, is now being skirted along the west side by a good road, which, when completed, will be twenty-four miles long, with a small inn at Poulachar, or Kilbride, on Barra Sound, and another at Stonybridge, about twelve miles farther north. Along the east coast, there is a range of bold lofty mountains, deeply indented by arms of the sea, where there are several anchorages with deep water, and in Lochboisdale a fine pier, accessible at all times of tide. Benbicula (separated from South Uist by a ford open from six to eight hours each tide, and from North Uist by a rather intricate ford, passable four to six hours each tide), is intersected by a fine new road made by the proprietor, six miles long, with the little inn of Craigorry at the south, and that of Gramisdale at the north end. In North Uist there are two roads proceeding from Loch Maddy (where there is a good inn), one of twelve miles, along the south coast to Cairinish, having no resting-place by the way, the other is twenty-nine miles long, divided by the small but good inns of Grainetote, nine miles; Teighary, eight miles; and Cairinish, twelve miles. At Tarbet, in Harris, there is a good inn.

finer articles of wooden furniture, brought from foreign parts, invariably swell and warp. Spring commences about the end of March, when the first shoots of grass make their appearance in sheltered places, and the *Draba verna*, *Ranunculus Ficaria*, and *Bellis perennis* unfold their blossoms. It is not until the end of May, however, that in the pasture-grounds the green livery of summer has fairly superseded the gray and brown tints of the withered herbage of winter. From the beginning of July to the end of August is the season of summer, and October terminates the autumnal season. During the spring easterly winds prevail, at first interrupted by blasts and gales from other quarters, accompanied by rain or sleet, but ultimately becoming more steady, and accompanied with a comparative dryness of the atmosphere, occasioning the drifting of the sands to a great extent. Summer is sometimes fine, but as frequently wet and boisterous, with southerly and westerly winds. Frequently the wet weather continues with intervals until September, from which period to the middle of October there is generally a continuance of dry weather. After this, westerly gales commence, becoming more boisterous as the season advances. It is, perhaps, singular, that while, in general, little thunder is heard in summer, these winter gales should frequently be accompanied by it. Dreadful tempests sometimes happen through the winter, which often unroof the huts of the natives, destroy their boats, and cover the shores with immense heaps of sea-weeds, shells, and drift timber.

7. "After a continued gale of westerly winds, the Atlantic rolls in its enormous billows upon the western coasts, dashing them with inconceivable fury upon the headlands, and scouring the sounds and creeks, which, from the number of shoals and sunk rocks in them, often exhibit the magnificent spectacle of terrific ranges of breakers extending for miles. Let any one who wishes to have some conception of the sublime, station himself upon a headland of the west coast of Harris during the violence of a winter tempest, and he will obtain it. The blast howls among the grim and desolate rocks around him. Black clouds are seen advancing from the west in fearful masses, pouring forth torrents of rain and hail. A sudden flash illuminates the gloom, and is followed by the deafening roar of the thunder, which gradually becomes fainter, until the roar of the waves upon the shore prevails over it. Meantime, far as the eye can

reach, the ocean boils and heaves, presenting one wide-extended field of foam, the spray from the summits of the billows sweeping along its surface like drifted snow. No sign of life is to be seen, save when a gull, labouring hard to bear itself up against the blast, hovers over head, or shoots athwart the gloom like a meteor. Long ranges of giant waves rush in succession towards the shores. The thunder of the shock echoes among the crevices and caves; the spray mounts along the face of the cliffs to an astonishing height; the rocks shake to their summit, and the baffled wave rolls back to meet its advancing successor. If one at this season ventures by some slippery path to peep into the haunts of the cormorant and rock pigeon, he finds them sitting huddled together in melancholy silence. For whole days and nights they are sometimes doomed to feel the gnawings of hunger, unable to make way against the storm; and often during the winter they can only make a short daily excursion in quest of a precarious morsel of food. In the mean time the natives are snugly seated around their blazing peat-fires, amusing themselves with the tales and songs of other years, and enjoying the domestic harmony which no people can enjoy with less interruption than the Hebridean Celts.

"The sea-weeds cast ashore by these storms are employed for manure. Sometimes in winter the shores are seen strewn with logs, staves, and pieces of wrecks. These, however, have hitherto been invariably appropriated by the lairds and factors to themselves; and the poor tenants, although enough of timber comes upon their farms to furnish roofing for their huts, are obliged to make voyages to the Sound of Mull, and various parts of the mainland, for the purpose of obtaining at a high price the wood which they require. These logs are chiefly of fir, pine, and mahogany. Hogsheads of rum, bales of cotton, and bags of coffee, are sometimes also cast ashore. Several species of seeds from the West Indies, together with a few foreign shells, as *Ianthina communis* and *Spirula Peronii*, are not unfrequent along the shores. Pumice and slags also occur in small quantities.

8. "Scenes of surpassing beauty, however, present themselves among these islands. What can be more delightful than a midnight walk by moonlight along the lone sea-beach of some secluded isle, the glassy sea sending from its surface a long stream of dancing and dazzling light,—no sound to be heard

save the small ripple of the idle wavelet, or the scream of a sea-bird watching the fry that swarms along the shores! In the short nights of summer, the melancholy song of the throstle has scarcely ceased on the hill-side when the merry carol of the lark commences, and the plover and snipe sound their shrill pipe. Again, how glorious is the scene which presents itself from the summit of one of the loftier hills, when the great ocean is seen glowing with the last splendour of the setting sun, and the lofty isles of St. Kilda rear their giant heads amid the purple blaze on the extreme verge of the horizon."

9. It was on the little Island of Eriskay, at the south end of South Uist, that Prince Charles Stuart first landed, on the 22d of July 1745, from the small frigate of sixteen guns, the Doutelle, in which he sailed from Belleisle, with the very limited suite who accompanied him on his chivalric and excessively daring enterprise to recover the crown of Britain. His retinue consisted of the Marquis of Tullibardine, otherwise called Duke of Athole, Sir John Macdonald (a French officer), Mr. Æneas Macdonald (a banker in Paris), Mr. Strickland, Mr. Buchanan, Sir Thomas Sheridan, Mr. O'Sullivan, and Mr. Kelly; to whom the precise Bishop Forbes adds, Mr. Anthony Welch, the owner of the Doutelle. Along with this vessel, the Elizabeth, a French ship of war of sixty-eight guns, had left port, as a convoy; but the latter vessel having, off the Lizard, engaged a British ship of war, the Lyon, of fifty-eight guns, both were so disabled that the Elizabeth had to be carried back to France; while the little frigate made its way alone for the north of Scotland. The adventurers were soon joined by Mr. Alexander Macdonald of Boisdale, who assured the Prince that he had miscalculated in reckoning on any assistance from Sir Alexander Macdonald of Sleat, and the Laird of Macleod; and his opinion turned out to be quite correct. To Boisdale's remonstrances as to the foolhardiness of the expedition, and the small chance of the clans mustering in any force, the Prince replied:—"I am come home Sir; and I will entertain no notion at all of returning to the place from whence I came: for that I am persuaded my faithful Highlanders will stand by me." In a day or two the Doutelle sailed for Loch-na-Gaul, sometimes called Loch-na-Naugh, between Arisaig and Moidart, and the party landed on the 25th of July at Borradale, whence they afterwards crossed that arm of the sea, and proceeded up

Loch Shiel to Glenfinnan, at the head of the loch, where the standard was unfurled. In Loch-na-Gaul young Clanranald with Mr. Macdonald of Kinloch-Moidart, Macdonald of Keppoch, Mr. Hugh Macdonald, brother of Moidart, and Mr. Macdonald, younger of Scothouse, came on board the Doutelle. The communications from Sir Alexander Macdonald, Macleod of Macleod, and at first from Lochiel (though Lochiel subsequently proceeded to Borradale), were of such a nature that every individual, even the members of his suite, importuned the Prince to return to France; but he was firm in his resolution, determined indeed, "having set his life upon a cast, to risk the hazard of the die."

The ebb of his fortunes brought the poor Prince back to the Long Island. And the best feature in his deportment is the magnanimity with which at this period he bore up under his adverse lot, and the very trying privations to which he was subjected, and the buoyancy of spirit with which he encountered the toils that hemmed him round, gathering fresh elasticity from each recurring hair-breadth escape, while wandering about a hunted fugitive. He was secreted for several days in the Cave of Corradale, on the east side of Benmore, in South Uist.

Prince Charles effected his escape from the Long Island to the Isle of Skye through the instrumentality of the celebrated Flora Macdonald—he disguised as Betty Burke, the Irish *female* attendant of Miss Macdonald;—Miss Macdonald having procured passports from Mr. Macdonald of Armadale, her stepfather, who commanded one of the independent companies engaged in searching for the Prince. They were accompanied by a Neil Mac Eachan, (father of Marshal Macdonald, Duke of Tarrentum,) a sort of preceptor in Clanranald's family, who travelled as Miss Macdonald's servant.

SECTION VIII.—BRANCH G.

ST. KILDA.

“ But oh, o'er all, forget not Kilda's race,
  On whose bleak rocks, which brave the wasting tides,
  Fair Nature's daughter, Virtue, yet abides.
Go!—just as they, their blameless manners trace!
Then to my ear transmit some gentle song,
  Of those whose lives are yet sincere and plain,
Their bounded walks the rugged cliffs along,
  And all their prospect but the wintery main.
With sparing temperance at the needful time
  They drain the scented spring, or, hunger prest,
Along the Atlantic rock, undreading, climb,
  And of its eggs despoil the Solan's nest.
Thus blest in primal innocence, they live
  Sufficed and happy with their frugal fare,
Which tasteful toil and hourly danger give.
  Hard is their shallow soil, and bleak and bare;
  Nor ever vernal bee was heard to murmur there!”

COLLINS.

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ST. KILDA.

General description, 1.—Houses; Inhabitants, 2.—Fowling, 3.

1. This remote islet of the ocean—

> Whose lonely race
> Resign the setting sun to Indian worlds—

merits at our hands some separate notice, as it has been occasionally made the object of a steam-boat expedition. It lies in latitude 57° 50′, and about eighty miles west of the Butt of Lewis, Harris being the nearest land. The tourist wishing to visit it, will find in the island of Pabba, at the extremity of the Sound of Harris, a small colony of fishermen, who are quite accustomed to make the voyage to St. Kilda in their large open boats, and who will readily agree to go there, provided they are allowed to judge of the weather, and conduct the excursion entirely in their own way. But the detention in St. Kilda, from stress of weather, is at times most tedious, and it may be believed that a prolonged stay in such a locality is far from an agreeable occurrence. If possible, therefore, it should be visited by a steamer or government cutter.

The island is about three miles long by two in breadth, and it is girt all round with perpendicular precipices, which in one part attain a height of 1300 or 1400 feet, and in which there is but one landing-place, on the south-east side, of difficult access, except in very calm weather, and whence a narrow passage leads to the summit of the high rocks above.

2. Within a quarter of a mile of this inlet, the inhabitants, who have numbered for the last century, from 90 to 100, are closely congregated in an irregular cluster of huts or houses, in general built of loose stones, about five feet in height, and composed of great masses, usually from four to six feet in thickness, thatched with straw. Their beds, or rather places of repose, are, for the winter and spring months, in a recess within the thick walls, where a quantity of fog, without any covering, is laid. They are nearly flat-roofed, resembling from a little distance a Hottentot kraal, except that they have not the regularity which marks the kraal. Every hut is nearly inaccessible from the filth which lies before its door, consisting of putrid sea-fowl, and refuse of all disgusting kinds. The interior is scarcely better, consisting generally of two apartments, one

being divided from the other by a rude partition of loose stones, within which is the dunghill, composed of alternate strata of

Ruins of a Dwelling, St. Kilda.

feathers, ashes, dried turf, and mould, which the inhabitants water, tread, and beat into a hard floor, on which they kindle their fires, new strata being added from time to time, and the whole gradually growing into a pile of compost, which is removed once a-year to the tilled ground adjoining. The stench, both inside and outside, it may well be conceived, is intolerable. Their personal cleanliness is upon a par with that of their houses. Their squalid attire, slovenly habits, and diminutive stature gives them a mean appearance, which is, however, somewhat redeemed by an expression of countenance considerably intelligent, and lighted up with curiosity and kindness. They are a simple-minded race, with few sources of emotion ; but the emotions themselves are vivid and strong. The mortality among the infants is excessive. Out of ten children born, not more than one survives the ninth day, probably in a great measure owing to the mephitic air which the new-born infant is compelled to breathe ; together with the deleterious food, melted butter and milk, with which they are at first fed. The clergyman's duties appear to be strictly confined to religious matters. The magisterial duties devolve upon the only individual in the

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island (with the exception of the minister) who speaks the English language, and who is employed by the proprietor as ground-officer to collect the feathers, &c., which are given by the natives in lieu of rent, and who terms himself "Baron Bailie," and has a bench erected at one side of the village, where he holds courts once a-week, and dispenses justice liberally. They store their feathers, eggs, &c., in long stone cells, of which the courses incline inwards in a sort of arch, and the whole covered with turf. The manse and church are both respectable buildings.

A verdant turf covers most of the island, giving way, on the higher elevations, to moss; and the soil is good, and, as far as it is cultivated, the ground is prepared with considerable care with the spade, a rake or harrow, and mallet, and it is highly manured, and the crops are early; but catching wild-fowl is the favourite pursuit, and is practised in various ways.

3. Each fowling party consists of four persons, and each party has at least one rope, about thirty fathoms long, of a three-fold cord of strong raw cow-hide prepared for the purpose, or of horse hair; and it is covered with dressed sheepskin, to protect it from the rocks. Such a rope is the most valued article of property—is made the subject of testament, and forms a dowry for a daughter. The fowler at times descends the cliffs, suspended by the rope, which two or three persons hold above. The person capturing the birds has a piece of wood or branch, similar to a common fishing-rod, to the end of which there is a piece of hair-line, about a foot in length, formed into a running noose, which he places over the head of the bird, and by pulling it towards him, the noose tightens upon the bird's neck, which he then unfastens, and takes in another; or linked together in couples, each having the end of the cord fastened about his waist, they clamber along the face of the precipices. When one is in motion, the other plants himself on a strong shelf, and takes care to have so sure a footing that, should his fellow adventurer make a false step, he may be able to arrest his headlong career. When one has arrived at a safe landing-place, he seats himself firmly, while the other endeavours to follow. The solan geese are taken in great numbers at night, and the mode of their capture is peculiar. By their daily exertions in quest of their finny prey, to get a proper view of which the bird rises high in the air, they are disposed to sleep

soundly, and roost in large flocks, over which one stands sentinel. The islanders, aware from the play of fish during the day, where the birds will betake themselves to rest, let themselves down in their neighbourhood with profound silence. The fowler has a white towel about his breast, and calmly glides along till he comes in view of the sentinel; he then gently moves forward on his hands and feet, creeping very silently up to the sentinel bird, from whose croak he knows whether to advance or retire. The fowler is said then very gently to tickle one of the bird's legs, which he lifts and places on the palm of the hand, and the other in like manner. He then imperceptibly moves it to the first sleeping bird, which he pushes with his finger, on which, thus rudely disturbed in its slumbers, it immediately falls a-fighting with the sentinel. This alarms the others, but instead of flying away, they all set to fight pell mell with one another, while the common enemy, unsuspected, twists their necks with all expedition. It is said that 1200 have been disposed of in this way by a single party in the course of a night. Dr. M'Culloch, in his own style, says of St. Kilda,—"The air here is full of feathered animals, the sea is covered with them, the houses are ornamented by them, and the inhabitants look as if they had been all tarred and feathered, for their hair is full of feathers, and their clothes are covered with feathers. The women look like feathered Mercuries, for their shoes are made of a gannet's skin; everything smells of feathers."

SECTION NINTH.

THE ORKNEY AND ZETLAND ISLANDS.

PART I.

THE ORKNEY ISLANDS.

Population of Orkney, paragraph 1.—Climate, 2.—General Aspect of the Orkney Islands, 3.—Storms, 4.—Agriculture; Single-stilted Plough, 5.—Inhabitants; Customs; Dress, 6.—Orkney Houses; Food, 7.—Education; Disposition; Religion; Superstitions, 8.—Trade; Manufactures, 9.—Fisheries; Lobster Fishing, 10.—Straw-Plaiting, 11.—Distilleries; Shipping; Sea Insurance, 12.—Exports, 13.—Table of Produce, 14.—History of Orkney, 15.—*Itinerary*: Pomona, or the Mainland, Kirkwall, 16.—St. Magnus' Cathedral; Earls' and Bishops' Palaces at Kirkwall; Pict's House on Wideford Hill, 17.—Road to Stromness; View from the Centre of Pomona, 18.—Stone Monuments, or Standing Stones of Stennis; Temples of the Sun and Moon at Stennis, 19.—Stromness; Bay, 20.—Miraculous Deliverance from Shipwreck, 21.—True History of George Stewart of Masseter, 22.—Excursion to Hoy; Echo at the Meadow of the Kame; Precipices and Old Man of Hoy; Wardhill of Hoy; Botany; The Dwarfie Stone, 23.—West Coast of Pomona: Vitrified Cairn in Sandwick Parish; Unique Stone Structure at Via, 24.—Birsay Palace; Plants rare in Orkney, 25.—*Itinerary of the North Isles*: Westray and Papa Westray; Pict's House, 26.—North Ronaldshay; Sanday; Vitrified Cairns, 27.—Ferries and Freights, 28.—General Features of the North Isles, 29.—Papa Westray; Holm of Papa Westray; The Eider Duck, 30.—Sketch of the Natural History of Orkney, 31.

Edgar. Come on, Sir; here's the place;—stand still. How fearful
And dizzy 'tis, to cast one's eyes so low!
The crows, and choughs, that wing the midway air,
Shew scarce so gross as beetles. Half way down
Hangs one that gathers samphire; dreadful trade!
Methinks he seems no bigger than his head.
The fishermen, that walk upon the beach,
Appear like mice; and yon tall anchoring bark,
Diminish'd to her cock;* her cock, a buoy
Almost too small for sight. The murmuring surge,
That on the unnumber'd idle pebbles chafes,
Cannot be heard so high:—I'll look no more,
Lest my brain turn, and the deficient sight
Topple down headlong.
Gloster. Set me where you stand.
Edgar. Give me your hand. You are now within a foot
Of the extreme verge; for all beneath the moon
Would I not leap upright.

SHAKESPEARE

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* Cock, a boat.

1. The Orkney Islands lie off the north coast of Scotland, and are separated from the county of Caithness by the Pentland Firth, which is 5½ miles broad at the narrowest part.* They extend between the parallels 59° 23′ 2″, and 58° 41′ 24″ N. latitude, and between 2° 22′ 2″, and 3° 25′ 10″ W. longitude, so that their extreme length is 41′ 38″, and their breadth 1° 3′ 8″, which is equal to 32·4 geographical miles. This includes an area of 1347·8 miles, but the islands only contain 244·8 geographical miles. The outline of the islands is equal to 573·7 miles.† They were known to the Romans by the name of Orcades, or Ultima Thule, although the latter appellation is by many supposed to have been applied to Zetland. The natives generally call them Orkney, as forming part of the county of Orkney and Zetland; and strangers frequently speak of the Orkneys as they would of the Azores, or any distant cluster of islands. If these are considered islands that are insulated every high water, and have flowering plants growing upon them, there are seventy-three, but seventeen of these become peninsulas at low water, so that they are reduced to fifty-six at that state of the tide. Of these, twenty-nine are inhabited, and nineteen more are probably capable of supporting a single family each; but these smaller islands, or, as they are here called, *holms*, are at present the abodes of innumerable sea-fowl, that hatch upon them with little molestation, while on some a few sheep or cattle are pastured; however, these *peerie*‡ islands used to be more valuable on account of the sea-weeds that grow on their rocky shores, than for the scanty herbage that clothes their soil. The number of the inhabited islands varies frequently, in consequence of single families taking up their abode in *holms* for a year or two, which they afterwards desert. The following are the names of the islands inhabited at present, with the population of each, according to the census of 1841:—

* From Duncansbay Head to Brough Point, in South Ronaldshay, is 5¼ miles; from Dunnet Head to Brimsness in Hoy, 6¼; from Huna to Burwick, 7½; from Stroma to Swona, 3.

† We are indebted for this and some other calculations to the kindness of Lieut. F. W. L. Thomas, R. N., whose exact survey of Orkney enables us to give some important corrections and additions in this edition.

‡ *Peerie* is a word in common use in Orkney, and means *little*; and it is curious, that on the return of Captain Cook's discovery vessels from the South Seas, the officers mentioned that the same word is used in the same sense in some islands there.

	Population.
Pomona, or mainland (Cavay and Lambholm, with two or three families each, included); also Gairsay and Copinshay*	16,108
North Isles.	
Eday and N. Pharay	1011
Egilshay	190
Enhallow	26
North Ronaldshay	481
Rousay	976
Shapinshay	935
Sanday	1891
Stronsay, Papa Stronsay, and Holm of Midgarth	1268
Westray	1791
Papa Westray	337
Weir	96
South Isles.	
Burray	532
Hunday	6
Graemsay	214
Hoy, including parish of Walls, Flotta, and Pharay	1946
South Ronaldshay	2577
Swanay and Pentland Skerries	65
	30,450

This total makes the population now about 2400 above the census of 1831.

2. The high latitude of these islands will prevent the well-informed traveller from expecting in them the warm climate or the luxuriant vegetation of more southern lands; but though there is enough to remind him of the contrast between Orcadian and Arcadian scenes, yet, owing to their insular situation, he will probably find them milder than he anticipated: for, as the ocean with which they are surrounded is little affected by summer heat or winter cold, the uniformity of its temperature produces such an equality in that of their shores, that excessive heat or long-continued frost or snow is alike unknown.† One

* The population of Pomona is thus divided into parishes:—

Kirkwall Burgh	3034	Firth	584
Do. Landward	540	Stenness	585
Do. Prison	7	Orphein and Cava	1064
St. Andrews	921	Rendall and Gairsay	601
Deerness and Copinshay	777	Evie	907
Holm and Lambholm	866	Harray	773
Stromness Burgh	2057	Birsay	1634
Do. Landward	728	Sandwick	1083

† This effect of the ocean in equalizing the temperature becomes very conspicuous

peculiarity in the Atlantic ocean which must have a powerful influence on their climate, and particularly in raising the temperature in winter, is the Gulf stream, which is well known to run to Orkney, and to carry many things from the West Indies along with it. Its temperature is also known to be higher than that of the ocean through which it flows, and thus it carries to us a portion of West India heat, and returns to them with a refreshing sea-breeze of our cold; establishing a *free trade* which is equally pleasant and profitable to both parties, by an arrangement of consummate wisdom. We believe that this furnishes the key to several meteorological difficulties. It explains why there is no frost with west wind, but an immediate thaw where there has been frost; indeed the thermometer at such times generally mounts up to 40° more. It shews the cause of our frequent showers of rain with west and south-west wind, as the evaporation from the warm stream is condensed on coming in contact with our cold hills: thus there is no continued drought, more than frost, with west wind. A series of observations on the temperature of the Atlantic and German oceans, and the points connected with it, at equal parallels, on the west and east coasts of Britain, might lead to important results, and we believe it will immediately be attended to. From their situation they may also have a greater share of light than would otherwise be their portion, the water reflecting it better than land: thus, during a month in summer, it is light enough, even at midnight, to enable a person to read, when the sky is clear, and to induce the lark and landrail to preserve a constant chorus of music; and, in fact, all nature seems awake in the summer night, which is but a softer day; and the admirer of the Almighty's works must frequently desist from his contemplation, and retire unsatiated to his pillow. It is almost superfluous to remind the reader, that this twilight is produced by the refraction of the sun's rays; and that, as he sinks below the horizon, in the lati-

on comparing the mean temperature of the summer and winter months in Orkney with that of the same months in other parts of Scotland. Thus the mean annual temperature of Sandwick, in Orkney, for the last fifteen years is nearly the same as that of Applegarth, in Dumfries-shire, on the south border of Scotland, viz., a little above 46 deg.; but while the mean temperature of January in Orkney is 37 deg. 63 min. it falls nearly 3½ deg. lower in Dumfries; and while the mean temperature of July, which is the warmest month in both places, is 54 deg. 79 min. in Orkney, it rises rather more than 3½ deg. higher in Dumfries. The mean height of the barometer, in the same station in Orkney for the same period, was 29,657 inches, and the average quantity of rain during the last 9 years 37¼ inches, the largest being in 1845 40.94, and the smallest in 1844 32.08 inches.

tude of Orkney, every night in summer, so he must rise above it every day in winter: indeed, he is kind enough to give the Orcadians about six hours of light in the shortest day, notwithstanding all that the credulous Brand and other old authors have said to the contrary.* On the longest day the sun describes a segment of four-fifths of a circle above the horizon, and there is no proper night for 116 days. During the winter nights, when the moon withholds her light, her place is frequently supplied by the *aurora borealis.* The Orkney winter is generally a succession of storms and rain; and the summer, though short, is remarkable for rapid advance of vegetation.

3. On his first approach, the stranger will be struck with a range of lofty precipices, rising perpendicularly from the bosom of the ocean, or even overhanging, and appearing to say, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no farther; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed;" but a nearer inspection will shew how vain the boast, for they will then appear to be, as they probably are, the remains of a more extensive country, the softest and lowest parts of which have been washed away by the perpetual action of the waves, which have separated it from the north of Scotland, and divided it into numerous islands, leaving in some cases a solitary pillar as a monument of what formerly existed: and the tremendous force of the waves can leave no doubt that their slow but certain action is still making farther encroachments. This opinion, which we entertained before the first edition of this volume, seems to be corroborated by the difference between the number of islands at high and low water, and the following interesting results of the accurate soundings of Mr. Thomas. A depression of the sea level at low water, or an elevation of the land to 30 feet, would reduce the number of islands to 23; if to 60 feet, there would be 10; if to 90 feet, there would be but 5. Swona, Pentland Skerries, and Carline Skerry being three of them, if to 120 feet—which is about the height of the tower of the cathedral—the Orkneys would decrease one island. He thinks, however, that the ocean has not advanced 100 fathoms on the west side since the land had its present form.

Hoy is the only island of the group that can be called moun-

* See Brand's Description of Orkney, p. 35; and Bailey's Dictionary, voce Shetland.

tainous, and none of the rest have hills of any considerable height, except the Mainland, Rousay, and Westray.* A geologist would at once perceive that these hills are not composed of primitive rocks; for, owing to the softness of their materials, the action of the elements has so far levelled their inequalities, that they now present an outline gently undulating: their surface is generally covered with heather, which affords shelter to a considerable number of moor-fowl and other species of birds. Like Scotland, England, and Ireland, and many other islands and continents, these islands are highest at the west side, where there is a range of hills, terminating abruptly in an almost continuous chain of precipices, with very few bays where even boats can land; but they slope gently towards the east, and soon end in fertile valleys, which are seldom 100 feet above the level of the sea, and, except in the central part of the Mainland, are within a mile of the shore, where the facility of procuring sea-weed, which is the favourite, and in some places the only manure used, has no doubt given great encouragement to cultivation. In the interior of the Mainland, marl is frequently found, and is used as manure; the hills are fleeced of their turf for the benefit of the cultivated ground, and the earth or its ashes, when burned, mixed up as a compost. In the eye of one accustomed to more southeren climes, these islands will no doubt appear bleak and barren, for there is not a tree or shrub to be seen, except a few that have been raised in gardens; and yet strangers have pronounced some of the valleys to be equal to those in fine counties of England, for richness and fertility. These, however, are not the qualities for which Orkney is most remarkable, and the traveller who can relish nothing else should not be found in so high a latitude; but its antiquities, precipices, and natural productions, its former history and present state, are well worthy of the attention of all who make the tour of Scotland for pleasure or information.

4. If the tourist has the good fortune to be in Orkney during a storm, he will cease to regret the absence of some of the softer and more common beauties of landscape, in the contemplation

* The Ward hill of Hoy is ..... 1555 feet high.
The Ward hill of Orphin ..... 876 „
Wideford hill ..... 721 „
Copinshay ..... 211 „
Costa-Head ..... 478 „
Fitty hill, Westray ..... 541 „
Ward of Eday ..... 310 „

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of the most sublime spectacle which he ever witnessed. By repairing at such a time to the weather shore, particularly if it be on the west side of the country, he will behold waves, of the magnitude and force of which he could not have previously formed any adequate conception, tumbling across the Atlantic like monsters of the deep, their heads erect, their manes streaming in the wind, roaring and foaming as with rage, till each discharges such a Niagara flood against the opposing precipices as makes the rocks tremble to their foundations, while the sheets of water that immediately ascend, as if from artillery, hundreds of feet above their summits, deluge the surrounding country, and fall like showers on the opposite side of the island. All the springs within a mile of the weather coast are rendered brackish for some days after such a storm. Those living half a mile from the precipice declare that the earthen floors of their cots are shaken by the concussion of the waves. Rocks that two or three men could not lift, are washed about, even on the tops of cliffs which are between 60 and 100 feet above the surface of the sea when smooth, and detached masses of rock of an enormous size are well known to have been carried a considerable distance between low and high water mark. Having visited the west crags some days after a recent storm, the writer found sea insects abundant on the hills near them, though about 100 feet high; and a solitary limpet, which is proverbial for its strong attachment to its native rock, but which also seemed on this occasion to have been thrown up, was discovered adhering to the top of the cliff, seventy feet above its usual position. We apprehend it is with limpets as with ourselves, that the highest, and particularly those who are thus suddenly elevated, are not the most happy. The agitation of the sea is not always in proportion to the force of the wind, for it is sometimes very great in a perfect calm. This great swell or sea, as it is here called, generally indicates a storm at a distant part of the ocean, which may reach Orkney a day or two afterwards; hence, on the west coast, this great swell is considered a prognostic of west wind. From this we infer, 1st, that the agitation caused by the wind on the surface of the ocean travels faster than the wind itself; and, 2d, that the breeze begins to windward, and takes some time to reach the point towards which it proceeds to leeward, which tends to overturn the usually received theory as to the cause of winds. Sometimes, however, the distant storm which

causes this agitation does not reach these islands at all. In confirmation of this, we take the liberty of copying the following note from a register of the weather, which has for some years been kept by a clergyman on the west coast of the Mainland :— "In August 1831, from the 9th to the 13th inclusive, the great swell of the sea is remarked, every day being also marked calm. The barometer remarkably steady at 29·9, and the thermometer ranging from 55° to 65°." In a subsequent note he adds :—"On the 7th and 8th of August, there was a gale in latitude 57° 21′ N., longitude 13° 15′ W., at first W. by N., and afterwards S.W., as appears from a vessel damaged by it, and put back to Stromness to repair. This accounts for the great swell of the sea here from the 9th to the 13th, with calm weather. On the 11th, at one A.M., it began at Barbadoes, N.E. to N.W., and continued till seven A.M. with dreadful violence, when it had changed to S.W., E.S.E., and S. On the 11th, at four A.M., it visited St. Lucie."

5. Each parish contains a number of cultivated portions or towns, as they are called, which are imperfectly defended from the sheep, that roam at large on the surrounding common, by turf walls, or *hill dykes*, and within which are generally found the possessions of several small proprietors mixed together in *run-rig*, which is a great impediment to their improvement; and many of the smaller lairds are Udallers, who hold their land from no human superior whatever. The mode of cultivating these spots can scarcely be said to have reached perfection, but it has been much improved since the commencement of this century. At that time it was not uncommon to see three or even four ponies yoked a-breast, and, instead of being stimulated by the ploughman who followed, their heads were fastened to a bit of wood, by which a little urchin endeavoured to drag them forwards, as if the plough and all were drawn by his little arm; and when his cattle appeared particularly lazy, he would front them, walking backwards, and lashing them on the face with his whip, to allure them on. The instrument, about the drawing of which there was such a fuss, was what is known by the name of the single-stilted plough, which baffles all description; but it was somewhat like the left side of the common plough, deprived of the right stilt and mould-board, and, in place of the latter, there were three or four pegs fastened in the side, which met the mould at right angles; and through

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these it was obliged to pass, as through a riddle, or to accumulate, till some clods, mounted on the heads of others, leaped over the barrier, or passed it in the best way they could—the ploughman using a staff or pattle-tree to steady the instrument in the ground, or to clear away the soil or roots, and sometimes to quicken the speed of his nags, by throwing it at their heels. This antique instrument has now so completely disappeared that it is a curiosity, even to an Orkney man, and is to be met with only in the museum of the antiquary. Most of the farms consist of about ten acres of arable ground, with about as much grass, for which they pay, on an average, about £10 of rent. The arable ground is never laid down with grass, but alternate crops of oats and bear are extorted from it without any rest; yet in most places, where it is well manured with sea-weed, the crops are excellent. Potatoes are universally cultivated, and form an important part of the farmer's diet, while they also serve to clean a small part of his land. At present, the great object is to raise grain; but were turnips, for which the climate seems peculiarly adapted, more generally introduced, and a portion of arable ground sown annually with grass, it would probably be more profitable. Indeed, much of the country seems better calculated for pasture than for corn: and, even under the present system, the rents are generally paid by the sale of cattle, and not of grain. There are, however, some gentlemen farmers and proprietors who farm portions of their estates (from 200 to 300 acres), who have a regular rotation of crops, and farm in the most approved manner.*

Agriculture has indeed made more progress here during the last eight or ten years, than during a long period previously, and particularly in the way of drainage, fences, and rotation, where it was most required. The drainage will no doubt improve the climate generally when completed, as the fences shelter their own localities, and the rotation has greatly improved the crops. The five-shift is that which is generally approved of, and in some places as good crops of turnips are now grown as in the southern counties, and the quality of the

* Dr. Barry estimates all the lands of Orkney at 150,000 acres, which he proportions thus:—Common or uncultivated ground, 90,000; in field, pasture, and meadow, 30,000; land in tillage, 24,000; occupied by houses and gardens, 2000; fresh waters, 4000. Since the Doctor published, considerable portions of the common have been improved, and converted into arable ground; but not so much as materially to interfere with his calculation; perhaps 2000 acres may thus have been reclaimed.

grain is greatly improved. Several very neat and commodious farm-steadings have been erected, and in most cases thrashing mills, worked either by steam or water, so that the appearance of the country in these places is completely changed, as in Orphir, where these improvements are not only introduced on several properties, and between £3000 and £4000 laid out since 1847, but Mr. Fortescue of Swanbister, who lately purchased property there, has introduced a large flock of Cheviot sheep, which he kept in the hills all the winter, which was a very severe one, and they have thriven remarkably well. Various causes have contributed to promote this improvement—for instance, the failure of kelp, high price of agricultural produce, purchase of property, and renting of farms by several gentlemen of capital and enterprize from the south, and the first government grant for drainage, of which about £20,000 has been laid out in Orkney. Those who applied for the largest sums being David Balfour, Esq. of Trenaby, £6000; J. G. Heddle, Esq. of Melsetter, £3000; G. W. Traill, Esq. of Veira, £3000; the Earl of Zetland, £2000; A. Fortescue, Esq. of Swanbister, £1000. Free trade, however, and low prices, have given a heavy blow to agriculture, and we fear that it will now be stationary or retrograde, unless there be some change in its favour.

The most public roads through the Mainland have been much improved of late by means of the statute labour; and carts are now so generally used, even by the smaller farmers, that, in a parish where there were only eleven at the end of last century, there are now about 200. This is a vast improvement on the old mode of transporting articles on the backs, or rather balanced on each side, of horses, by means of the *clibber* and *mazy*, to which were attached strange-looking heather baskets called *creels*, or straw ones called *cubbies*, and *cazies*. These, however, are still to be seen, and are worthy of a place in the antiquary's museum, beside the single-stilted plough; and they should be accompanied by the *pundler* and *bismar*, two very imperfect instruments for weighing commodities on the principal of the lever.

6. The homespun stuffs for both sexes have almost disappeared; and the peasantry are now, in general, dressed in imported manufactures as decently as those of most counties in Scotland; the younger females having straw Leghorn bonnets,

plaited by themselves, and the young men being attired as sailors. Not being of Celtic origin, the Highland dress and language were never used in Orkney; but the Norse tongue, which was a dialect of the Norwegian, was generally spoken some centuries ago, and understood last century by some people in the parish of Harray, which is the only one that is not washed by the sea, and where old customs consequently remained longer than in any other. This language, however, is now completely forgotten, so that there is no one who can assist the etymologist with the meaning of many names which are evidently Norse. Of course the people speak English, with a peculiar accent, which the stranger will readily perceive: and, when talking familiarly among themselves, they use the singular of the second personal pronoun, saying *thou* and *thee*, like quakers, instead of *you*.

7. Their cottages are, in general, miserable-looking abodes, with peat-stacks in front, and the intervening space sadly cut up by the feet of the cattle: the door, which is in many cases common to the cot and the cow-house, is sometimes less than five feet high—the cows turning into one end of the building, and the people to the other; and often a favourite or delicate cow, or a few calves, are kept in the fore-house, or *but*, along with the family. A flock of fowls on the rafters, and a few geese, hatching in the proper season, are also admitted to the comfort of the fire, which is placed on the middle of the earthen floor, and composed of peats—there being a hole in the roof for egress to the smoke and entrance to the light. This opening is not placed directly above the fire, lest during rain there should be a "meeting of the waters" with that element, which would not terminate in their being "mingled in peace;" and the smoke, having thus no encouragement to pursue an upright course, adopts a more crooked policy, and forces its way into openings that were not intended for its reception, as the stranger's eyes sometimes testify, by the involuntary tribute of a tear. "Sic itur ad astra!" Besides the main apartment, there is generally an interior one, or *ben*, which is seldom fired or used, except on great occasions, and as a bed-room; and, sometimes, between the two there is a space for lumber. Around the central fire the family is generally collected during the long winter evenings, apparently more comfortable and contented with their lot than a southern slave to refinement would suppose it pos-

sible to be in their humble cot and hyperborean climate; the men engaged in making or mending some of their farming utensils, and the females in plaiting straw to deck the heads of the London ladies, in the shape of bonnets; but this employment has lately failed them, and no substitute has yet been introduced. Strangers are sometimes astonished at a round ancient-looking tower attached to each cottage: this is the kiln for drying grain; it is connected with the barn, and is very necessary on the smallest farm, there being none of a public description. The food of the peasantry is simple enough to satisfy the greatest advocates for the antiphlogistic regimen—pottage for breakfast, bread and milk for dinner, the same repeated for supper, is the summer fare; and, in winter, potatoes, with a little butter or fish, or very rarely meat may be added. For the general dinner and supper, each house has a well-stocked kail-yard, and cabbage forms a favourite, and often too common a meal.

8. The people have as much information on general and religious subjects as those of any part of the kingdom. All the present generation can read, most of them can write, and arithmetic is commonly taught. "Unfortunately, most of the parishes are united to others, and two, or even three of them, with a church in each, placed under the charge of one clergyman, who has to preach in each by turns; though common sense, it might be thought, would convince every one that each parish requires a clergyman, and at least one school for itself alone." Great exertions are sometimes made by the clergy so situated to remedy this defect by their own activity, or the employment of assistants or appointment of missionaries; and we know that, in some instances, the coarsest weather has not prevented them from reaching their more distant parishes, even one day, for ten years, perhaps for a much longer period, though they had to travel fifteen miles, often through mud, rain, storm, and darkness. The Earl of Zetland is patron of all the Orkney livings, except those of the two ministers of Kirkwall, the patronage of which is in the hands of the town council; and the patronage of Walls is claimed by Mr. Heddle of Melsetter, as well as by the Earl. The synod of Orkney consisted of three presbyteries, each with six clergymen, till May 1833; and it is a singular coincidence, that, during that month, each had one added to its number, by the disjunction of Stromness from

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Sandwick, and the admission of the ministers of the government churches in Deerness and North Ronaldshay, as members of the church courts, so that there are now twenty-one who are entitled to sit as members; but besides these, there are five missionaries who preach to separate congregations, making the total number of clergy in the Established Church twenty-six. Since the commencement of this century, however, there has been a considerable number of dissenters in Orkney, of the United Presbyterian Church, Original Seceders, Congregationalists, and Baptists, of whom the first sect seem best adapted to the Orcadian disposition, and have taken the firmest root in a poor soil. There are no statistics published giving the number of dissenters at present, but the number of ministers of this sect in Orkney is twelve; of Original Seceders, two; of Congregationalists, three; and of Baptists, three or four. The greatest secession which has taken place in Orkney, as in most of Scotland, is that of the Free Church, in 1843, when ten ministers and preachers left the Established Church, and joined that communion; and where they did so, a great part of their congregations followed them. There are now fourteen ministers in connection with the Free Church. Thus there are at least sixty ministers or preachers for about thirty thousand inhabitants, or about one for every five hundred, which would be a liberal allowance if they were located so as to give the utmost accommodation to all; yet still, there are remote places where the people are in want of the ordinances of religion. The traveller will be able to account for this, when he sees a cluster of churches in each of the towns, and even in the country, within 100 or 200 yards of each other.

As the day dawns, the shades of night vanish; and the light of knowledge is fast chasing away from Orkney the superstitious phantoms of former ignorance. There are still, however, some who have seen, and can tell wondrous stories of the *fairies*, before the guagers put them to flight by their odious tax upon the generous liquor which was required to warm and expand the heart ere those airy inhabitants condescended to reveal themselves to the eyes of man. There is still a superstition against turning a boat, at the commencement of a voyage, contrary to the sun, and against calling some things by their proper names at particular times: as, for instance, the fire used in the drying kiln is always propitiated by being styled

the *ingle;* and the water employed for brewing ale, lest it should overflow in quantity, is called by the diminutive word *burn*, and so on.

9. A table is subjoined, showing the sums collected in Orkney from various kinds of industry in 1833, from which the reader will be able to form some idea of the trade and manufactures of the country.* In 1826, 3500 tons of kelp were manufactured, and sold at about £7 per ton, leaving £24,500 in the country. This was the greatest quantity ever made in one season; but, alas for the staple of Orkney! there is little prospect of its rising so high again, for the market was glutted, and the chemists with their drugs, and the free-trade doctors with their prescriptions, have since brought it to a state from which it can scarcely be expected to recover. All the principal proprietors in Orkney have felt the depreciation in the price of kelp severely, and some of them it has completely ruined, their estates on islands being so small, in proportion to the coast that bounds them, that the weeds on the surrounding rocks were much more valuable to them than all the produce of their lands. During the last war, kelp sold so high as £20 per ton; and now, even at £4 : 10s., it is *heavy*, as the merchants call it. Thus, Dr. Neill's remark, made in the year 1806, has been almost literally verified. "Agriculture," said he, "is quite a secondary consideration; and, such being the case, the reader will not, we believe, conclude that we are prophesying, if we say that *kelp* will be the ruin of Orkney."

10. The herring fishery has greatly increased of late. At the beginning of this century, the entire neglect of it was much deplored by Dr. Barry, and by Dr. Neill, in his Tour through Orkney. Dr. Traill mentions, in his article on Orkney in the Edinburgh Encyclopædia, that in 1820 no fewer than 17,989 barrels were exported; but after that the trade declined. During 1837 and the two following years, the average number of sloops engaged in the cod fishery was eighteen, and the quantity of cod cured each year 381 tons; while the average number of herring-boats belonging to Orkney was 724, and of herrings

* In the first edition of this Guide, we ventured to suggest that "the number of cattle exported could be increased with much advantage, particularly if a steam-boat were employed to carry them at once to the south of Scotland." We have now much pleasure in noticing that this suggestion has been freely acted on. The fare for a cabin passage in the steamers to Orkney is, from Granton, Ely, Anstruther, Crail, and Arbroath, 16s.; Aberdeen, 12s.; Wick, 4s.; Lerwick, 7s. General Goods, 1s. 6d. per barrel; small lean cattle, 8s.

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cured on shore and afloat 42,073 barrels. These are sold by the fishers to the curers at about 10s. per cran or barrel, and the cod bring as much per cwt., yielding £24,852 per annum. Lobsters are generally caught in small nets about two feet in diameter, which are kept extended and sunk at the bottom by means of iron hoops, and baited with fish or flesh. Great numbers of these are let down along the shore near to low-water mark, with ropes having buoys attached to the ends of them, and visited several times during the night by the fishermen, one of whom pulls the boat gently along the line of nets, while the other lays hold of each buoy as he comes up to it, and by the rope pulls up the net so rapidly, that, if there is a lobster at the bait, it is in the boat before it has time to escape. Its claws are then secured by twine, to prevent mischief from its pugnacity, and the whole thus caught during the night are immediately transferred to a large chest with many perforations, which is anchored in some sheltered bay, till one of the London welled smacks calls, which they do at certain places every week, for the purpose of transferring the contents of all the chests in Orkney to the London market: 100,000 lobsters, on an average, are thus annually exported; but, from their recent decrease in size and number, together with the limited extent of the fishing-ground, it is probable that this fishery has reached its maximum. Sixty whalers have called in one year, and taken 1400 men, leaving about £18,000 in the country; but the men who do not now get out to Davis Straits find employment in the other fisheries, which benefit themselves and the country more; for the habits which they acquired there led them often to spend in dissipation, during winter, all the hard-earned gains of the preceding summer. The voyage, also, is more unpleasant and dangerous than it once was; for, since the northern discovery vessels pointed out the fishing-ground on the west side of Baffin's Bay, that is the great resort of the whalers. They are consequently longer detained; the men are exposed to increased danger, and are absent during the harvest months, when their presence is most wanted at home. The fisheries, particularly those of herring and cod, shew the great resources of Orkney. Surrounded with an inexhaustible ocean of food, its inhabitants require only industry to supply themselves with plenty in a land of peace, and to attain the luxuries of other climates by an exchange of their superabundance. There seem to be no limits to

these branches of industry but what are imposed by its capital and population, and these will be rapidly increased by a successful perseverance in the fisheries. Anglers will find the best sport at the following places:—Stenness Loch, Orphir Loch, Loch of Air at Holme, Wasdale in Firth, Birsay Loch.

11. Straw-plaiting for ladies' bonnets and gentlemen's hats is, or rather was, the only manufacture carried on to any great extent in these islands. About thirty or forty years ago, 6000 or 7000 females were more or less employed in it, and about £20,000 per annum were derived from this source. At that time, however, the plaiting was of wheat-straw, which had been allowed to ripen, but which was afterwards split; consequently, the bonnet was colourless, brittle, and flimsy. A superior sort of bonnet, however, has since been introduced from Leghorn, which is firmer than the other, from its being plaited of unsplit straw: it is also of a richer colour, and of a tougher and more durable texture, in consequence of the straw being cut while green. In imitation of this article, the Orkney straw-plaiting is now carried on, and it hence is called Leghorn or Tuscan. The straw of rye is used here, but that of wheat and other kinds of grass will answer the same purpose. The seeds are sown thick, that the straw may be long and fine: the stems are cut down before the grain ripens—tied near the lower end into very small bundles, steeped in boiling water for an hour, spread on the ground to bleach, and carted to the manufacturer's house, where the upper part, between the highest joint and the grain, which in general is the only part used, is pulled out, cut to a proper length, sifted or sorted to so many different degrees of fineness, and made up into small bundles, which are distributed to the girls, who take them to their own houses to be plaited. They are paid according to the fineness of the straw and excellence of the work; but, for the most part, the plaiters can earn no more than threepence per day: the plaits are next washed, smoked, milled, and, lastly, put into the hands of other girls, who sew or knit them together into bonnets. The second class of girls and the sorters can make fivepence a-day. One half of the straw manufactured here is for the Messrs. Muir of Greenock, who have about fifteen or sixteen acres in cultivation, and employ about 1000 constant plaiters, and many others, who work occasionally; and it is computed that several others, who carry on this manufacture

on a small scale, do as much business among them. 140 yards of the finest plait are required to make a bonnet, which brings £4 at market. The Orkney straw is considered tougher than the foreign, but not of so rich a hue. At one time this manufacture was conducted in a very objectionable manner, by collecting numbers of young people in confined apartments, where, as "evil communications corrupt good manners," and "one sinner destroyeth much good," it is to be feared the contaminated atmosphere was not only destructive to their bodily health, but to their moral purity. The same objections, however, do not apply to it as conducted at present in their own homes, where it has a tendency to introduce neatness and cleanliness: but it is a serious objection that the whim of a London lady may render it unfashionable to appear under a thatch of straw, and thus at once throw destitute 3000 Orcadian damsels. Indeed, this had in a great measure been effected, before last edition, by the reduction of duty on foreign straw-plait from 17s. to 5s. per pound; and the free importation of foreign straw now has almost annihilated this manufacture, which was the only employment for most of the Orkney girls.

12. There are two licensed distilleries at Kirkwall, and one at Stromness. In 1833, there were seventy-eight registered vessels belonging to the country, carrying 4049 tons and 319 seamen. Notwithstanding the distress among the ship-owners of Britain, the shipping of Orkney had been doubled within the preceding twenty years: the favourite rig is that of a schooner, and the trade that between England and Ireland. In general, they are *well found*, navigated by able and sober seamen, and not insured; consequently there are few lost: and it is the general opinion in Orkney, that a great many of the numerous wrecks on its shores are those of vessels which are intentionally thrown away, for the purpose of profiting by the insurance, and that it would be a great saving to Britain if there were no sea insurance at all. In this way only can we account for several wrecks which we have witnessed. In other cases, where there was danger or loss of life, the scene was exciting and awful in the extreme.

At present, the shipping interest is in a very languishing state, in consequence of the repeal of the navigation laws.

13. Our table may be advantageously compared with Dr. Barry's account of exports and shipping, in p. 386 of his work, from which it appears that they were as follows:—

Years.	Exports.	Shipping.	Ships.	Sailors.
In 1770	£12,018	825 tons.	17	76
1780	23,257	940 ...	20	90
1790	26,598	2000 ...	23	170
1800	39,677	1375 ...	21	119

Of the imports, it would be difficult to ascertain the exact amount or quantity, so as to reduce them to a table like that of the exports; but we believe that, in general, they may be stated to be annually a few thousand pounds less. They consist of a great variety of articles, which would be best understood by an inspection of an Orkney shop, which is a sort of bazaar, the keeper of which is grocer, clothier, haberdasher, hosier, hatter, silk mercer, ironmonger, tobacconist, &c. &c. A considerable annual quantity of wood from various places, and coal from Newcastle, are also imported.

14. TABLE SHEWING THE SUMS RECEIVED IN ORKNEY, IN 1848, FROM FARM PRODUCE, MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, ETC.

Bear or bigg, 5015 quarters, at 20s.	£5,015	0	0
White oats, 2377 quarters, at 16s.	1,901	12	0
Oatmeal, 1000 bolls, at 12s.	600	0	0
Bearmeal, 800 bolls, at 10s.	400	0	0
Potatoes, 2000 barrels, at 4s.	400	0	0
Turnip seeds, 4 tons, at £40	160	0	0
Horses, 320, at £10	3,200	0	0
Oxen and cows, 1580, at £5	7,900	0	0
Sheep, 670, at £1	670	0	0
Lambs, 200, at 12s.	120	0	0
Swine, 490, at £1 : 10s.	735	0	0
Butter, about £2000; hides, £300	2,300	0	0
Rabbit skins, 1500 dozen, at 2s. 6d.	187	10	0
Feathers	250	0	0
Wool	470	0	0
Kelp, drift weed, 300 tons, at £4 : 10s.	1,350	0	0
Do., cut weed, 250 tons, at £2 : 10s.	625	0	0
Malt, 10,696 bushels	1,604	0	0
Eggs sent to Leith, 50 tons, 100 dozen per cwt., 100,000 dozen at 6d.	2,500	0	0
Straw manufacture	400	0	0
Herrings, 20,000 barrels, at 10s. per barrel	10,000	0	0
Cod, fished by about 40 sloops of 40 tons, 14 tons each, at £12 per ton	6,720	0	0
Lobsters, caught by 432 men, in 216 boats	1,800	0	0
Whale fishing	1,800	0	0
Carry forward,	£51,108	2	0

Brought forward	£51,108	2	0
Hudson's Bay Company pay annually for wages of men employed in Hudson's Bay	1,200	0	0
About 400 sailors engaged in vessels not belonging to Orkney, and many of whom spend the winter in it, at £12 each	4,800	0	0
	£57,108	2	0

15. HISTORY.—Orkney and Zetland have long formed one county or stewartry; but, till the passing of the Reform Bill, the representative to Parliament was returned by Orkney alone, while Zetland had no voice in the election—an oversight certainly very inconsistent with the theory of the British constitution: and this inconsistency is scarcely diminished by the new act, which, in bestowing the elective franchise on Zetland, only gives it the privilege of voting for the member along with Orkney. Arthur Anderson, Esq., is the present representative.

The early history of Orkney is probably as accurately and minutely known as that of any part of Britain; for which we are indebted to the Orkneyinga Saga, and to the Orcades of Torfæus; but to these large and rare works it cannot be supposed the traveller will refer for information. He will, however, find a translated and sufficiently minute epitome in Dr. Barry's history.

Cape Orcas, from which these islands probably derive their name, is noticed as an extremity of Britain by Diodorus Siculus, A. C. 57, and the Orcades are mentioned by Pomponius Mela, 100 years after. Solinus reckons only three islands, A. D. 240; or if Pinkerton is right in his correction, 33. The first permanent inhabitants probably came from the nearest coast, and consisted of the Picts, or Picks, who spread over Scotland and the Hebrides before the birth of Christ, and from these to Orkney. Little kings or princes then reigned in these islands; and King Belus, Gaius and Gunnas are mentioned. When the Roman empire was divided among Constantine's sons, Orkney was considered of such importance, that it is particularly mentioned as falling to the share of young Constantine. St. Columba met an Orkney king at the court of Budi II., and recommended Cormac, one of his disciples, to instruct the people, A.D. 570. Budi IV. quelled an insurrection in Orkney; after which it remained so quiet, that it is not mentioned again for more than 200 years. The Orkney Picts seemed to have

enjoyed the sweets of society in peace, till their harmony was interrupted by another swarm of Scandinavians, A. D. 876. This was occasioned by the ambition of Harold Harfager, or the Fair-haired, who, dissatisfied with the territories which he possessed, introduced discord and the horrors of war into the little states around him, till he raised himself to be the sole King of Norway.

Many of the princes and people who were thus disgusted at home, or forced to flee, left their native land, and took possession of the Faroes, Iceland, the Hebrides, several parts of Britian, Zetland, and the Orkney Isles, and from these they gratified their revenge by intercepting the trade and ravaging the coasts of their common enemy. Harold equipped a fleet to subdue them, and, arriving in Orkney, A. D. 876, which is described as being inhabited by the Peti or Papæ, (who are supposed to be the Picts and their priests), he added these, as well as the Western Islands, to his dominions ; and, on his return to Norway, invested Ronald, Count of Merca, with the government of Orkney. This wise and illustrious nobleman retired from the situation in 920, in favour of his brother Sigurd, who added to his earldom by subduing Caithness, Sutherland, East Ross, and Moray, where he was slain in battle. Ronald next allowed Gottorm his nephew, and Halled his son, to enjoy the earldom ; but they were stupid and unfit ; and two of his other sons vied with each other for the appointment. Einar was the successful candidate, who is said to have taught the people to use turf for fire, hence called Torfeinar ; and Rolf, or Rollo, who was the disappointed competitor for the earldom of Orkney, and the great-great-great-grandfather of William the Conqueror, was obliged to try his fortune in France, which he invaded, and became Duke of Normandy. We cannot detain the reader with the exploits of all the descendants of this distinguished family, who held the earldom of Orkney from A. D. 920 till after 1320, when Magnus V. was alive, in whose person the male line failed, and the earldom passed to Mallis, Earl of Strathearn, who was married to Magnus's only daughter, and afterwards to "the lordly line of high St. Clair" in 1379. These Scandinavian earls, jarls, or sea-kings, were considered high in rank, wise in peace, and formidable in war. They intermarried not only with the nobility of the neighbouring nations, but with the regal families of Scotland and Norway ;

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and they were known and feared as far as their fleets and arms could reach. But though their exploits, according to the ideas of that warlike period, were those of high and honourable men, they would now very properly be classed with those of plunderers and pirates.

Barry's description of Swein of Gairsay is probably also applicable to most, if not all, of the other earls. "In spring he employed them (his people) in cultivating the ground and sowing the seed. The summer was for the most part spent in predatory expeditions, particularly to Ireland and the Western Isles. Harvest called them home to reap and gather in the crop; and the gloomy months of winter were devoted to festivity." This gentleman took the city of Dublin on one occasion, as a little private speculation: and the fall of the latter Sigurd, in the battle of Clentarf, close to Dublin, is commemorated in Gray's well-known Ode of the "Fatal Sisters." In short, the Scandinavians of those days seem to have undertaken predatory excursions against their fellow men, much in the same manner as their descendants of the present day join in expeditions against the fish of the neighbouring seas, or the leviathans of Greenland. These were the men,

> "Who for itself could woo the approaching fight,
> And turn what some deem danger to delight."

We have already noticed the original introduction of Christianity into these islands. After the Scandinavian or pagan conquest, it was introduced a second time, about A.D. 1000, by Olaus Friguesson, King of Norway, and, in the spirit of those days, at the point of the sword. But it was more easy thus to make it the acknowledged religion of the land than to infuse its mild spirit into the hearts of men; and long after that period we find the Orcadians acting rather like the worshippers of Odin, than the imitators of Him who "is good to all, and whose tender mercies are over all his works." While William St Clair, the third of that name, held the earldom of Orkney, Christian I. king of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, demanded payment of the "annual of Norway," the arrears of which amounted to a considerable sum; and, the affair having been submitted to the arbitration of Charles, King of France, he prudently recommended a marriage between the young Prince of Scotland and the Princess of Denmark. In 1468, James III. accordingly obtained with the Princess Margaret a portion of

60,000 florins, 2000 of which were paid. Orkney was given in pledge for 50,000, and Zetland for the remaining 8000, and since that time these islands have always been politically attached to Scotland, from which they should never have been disjoined. King James purchased the earl's *haill richt* to them in 1470, annexing them to the crown by acts of parliament, not to be alienated again, except in favour of a lawful son of the king. This wise resolution was, however, speedily departed from ; and they were granted to James, Earl of Murray, in 1530, and afterwards to the Earl of Huntly, who enjoyed them till Mary bestowed the earldom on her natural brother, Lord Robert Stuart, and subsequently on the Earl of Bothwell, with the title of Duke of Orkney. Sir John Maitland of Thirlstane, and Sir Ludovick Ballantine, held them for short time ; and Earl Patrick Stuart, son of Lord Robert, obtained a grant in 1600. This man inherited his father's vices as well as his honours. He was proud, avaricious, cruel, and dissipated ; but the complaints of the oppressed people at length reached the ear of royalty ; when he was thrown into prison, convicted of high treason, and suffered condign punishment. Probably the poor Orcadians never endured so great oppression as during the rule, or rather the misrule, of the Stuarts. They destroyed most of the Udal tenures, and introduced feudal ones in their stead ; justice was perverted, heavy fines were imposed, and the property of others was unjustly seized ; the weights and measures were altered, so as to increase the rent paid in kind ; the discontented districts were overawed by soldiery ; and the castles of Scalloway and Kirkwall, built by Earl Patrick, while they remain as monuments of his pride and oppression, serve well to illustrate, not only the ruin which is effected by the footsteps of time, but that which always tracks the footsteps of vice, and which overtook their execrable builder. So great was the fear of having another such oppressor appointed to the earldom, that, to quiet the minds of the people, the king ordered a proclamation to be made "that the lands and earldom of Orkney and Zetland were annexed to the crown, to remain in time coming," and that the inhabitants should be under no apprehension of reverting "to their former condition of misrule, trouble, and oppression."

The rents of the earldom were then let to Sir James Stewart of Kilsyth, as farmer-general, and afterwards to Sir George Hay of Kinfauns, who resigned them in three years. The

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people petitioned "that no man be interposed between his Majesty and them, to molest them." The prayer of this petition was for a time listened to, and another act of annexation passed in 1633. But in 1643, King Charles I. again granted the islands, with all the regalities belonging to them, to William, Earl of Morton, in mortgage, redeemable by the crown for £30,000. He was, however, stripped of the earldom by Cromwell. Another of the same family regained it, at the Restoration, in 1662; but the deed was declared null, and it was annexed to the crown again in 1669, and leased out to different persons for thirty years. In 1707, James, Earl of Morton, obtained it, for the last time, in the old form of a mortgage, redeemable by the crown for £30,000, subject to an annual feu-duty of £500. This grant was rendered irredeemable in 1742, and he afterwards received £7200 for heritable jurisdictions. But, harassed with complaints, quarrels, and lawsuits, he sold the estate, in 1766, for £60,000, to Sir Lawrence Dundas, the great-grandfather of the present Earl of Zetland, in whose family it remains, and who have erected too many honourable monuments for themselves in the hearts of the people, to require that we should sound their praise.

Our limits forbid us to enter on the history of the church in Orkney. Suffice it to say, that the first resident Romish bishop seems to have been appointed about the beginning of the twelfth century, and the first reformed bishop in 1562. By the act of the General Assembly in 1638, Episcopacy was abolished, but it afterwards revived for a little; and it was not till about A. D. 1700 that Presbyterianism was finally established in these islands in place of Episcopacy. Since that time, the revenues of the see of Orkney have been either held by the crown, and managed by a factor, or leased out to the holder of the earldom or others. At present they are placed under the control of the commissioners of her Majesty's woods, forests, and land revenues.

ITINERARY.

16. As the traveller will probably arrive at Kirkwall either by the steam-boat or other conveyance, or take an early opportunity of visiting it, we shall commence our Itinerary by a brief description of Pomona, or the Mainland. This island is divided into two unequal parts by the Bays of Kirkwall and

Scapa, and connected by an isthmus nearly two miles broad, upon which the town of Kirkwall is built. Here is a comfortable inn and several respectable lodging houses. The oldest part of the town lies along the shore of the former bay, which is much exposed to the north, and hence not greatly frequented by shipping; though its position, so central for the Mainland, and allowing easy access from the north and south isles, points it out as the proper site for the capital of the country. From whatever quarter it is approached, the ancient and venerable cathedral of St. Magnus is the first object that arrests the eye, raising its stately form above the town, that seems to crouch beneath it; while the ruins of the Earl's and Bishop's Palaces, which were companions of its youth, increase our veneration for its sacred walls, by appearing as the attendants of its age, while they are bent with the weight of years. The town consists chiefly of one street, which is about a mile long, and very narrow and unpleasant to passengers, from the roughness of the causeway and want of a side pavement in some places, though it is much improved in this respect since our last edition. Many of the houses have their gables toward the street, which gives it a foreign appearance; and some of them seem, from their inscriptions, to be verging on antiquity. Kirkwall, we are told, was erected into a royal burgh in the time of the Danes; and James III., on obtaining Orkney, conferred a similar honour on it. Its first charter was granted in 1468. This was confirmed by James V. in 1536, who visited Orkney in person, and lodged in the Bishop's Palace; and his grants were ratified in 1661 by King Charles II., and by the parliament, at Edinburgh, in 1670. It has since been governed by a provost, four bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and fifteen councillors, and had the privilege of returning a member to parliament along with the other northern burghs. The late Burgh Reform Act has made a few changes in the constitution of Kirkwall. Here most of the principal proprietors of the county reside, at least during the winter, besides many well-educated men; and the society is esteemed at least as good as that of any other provincial town of the same size. In 1841, the population of the burgh was 3034, and that of the parish of St. Ola, which is attached to it, 540. There was formerly a fresh-water lake at the west side of the town; but, by an attempt to drain it, the sea was admitted, which now

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ebbs and flows there regularly, and is known by the name of the *Peerie Sea*.

17. The architectural beauties of the town claim the stranger's particular attention:—First, St. Magnus' Cathedral. Magnus, in honour of whom this stately pile was erected, was one of the Scandinavian Earls of Orkney, and was assassinated in Egilshay, about the year 1110, by his cousin Haco, who thus obtained possession of his property. The murdered earl, who seems to have been a good man, was sainted, and his body buried, first in Christ Church in Birsay, but afterwards removed to this cathedral. Kolius, or Ronald, a nephew of St. Magnus, who was entitled to a share of the earldom, but was repulsed by Paul, who then held it, retired to Norway; and before attempting again to obtain possession, he raised the zeal of his followers by vowing to St. Magnus, that, if successful, he would erect and dedicate a church to him in Kirkwall, far exceeding in magnificence all former buildings in these islands. By the zeal thus inspired, and the wisdom of his plans, he was successful. He arrived unperceived, though Paul had ordered fires to be kindled in different islands, to give warning of his approach; and, after his settlement, he amply fulfilled his promise, by building, about the year 1138, the central cross and steeple of the cathedral, which are the most ancient parts of the edifice. Ronald, the founder, was also slain while hunting in Sutherland; canonized, and buried in the cathedral. Dr. Stewart, who succeeded to the bishoprick of Orkney in 1511, enlarged the building, by adding the three first pointed piers and arches at the east end, and the fine east window, which is early middle pointed, of four unfoliated lights, in two divisions, its head filled with a rose of twelve leaves. Bishop Maxwell, who succeeded in 1525, ornamented it, and furnished it with a chime of four very large and well-toned bells; and Bishop Reid, who succeeded in 1540, added three Romanesque pillars to the west end, the interior arches above which seem never to have been finished. It is built of red freestone, of first pointed and early middle pointed architecture, and is still quite entire—as much so as St. Mungo's Cathedral in Glasgow, which it resembles; but its enormous apparent size strikes one, on entering, as much as that of the larger English cathedrals, which is partly accounted for by the extreme narrowness of the nave and choir, only 16 feet—compared with the total internal

length, which is 217 feet 6 inches. In the choir are entombed the remains of Scandinavian royalty and nobility, of saints and warriors. The present spire* is a paltry substitute for an elegant one which was destroyed by lightning in 1670, and is 133 feet high. The interior arched roof, which is 71 feet high, is supported by 28 pillars, each 15 feet in circumference; and 4 others, 24 feet in circumference, of great strength, and beautifully ornamented, support the spire. The extreme length of the cathedral, from east to west, outside, is 226 feet, and of the transepts 90 feet, and its breadth about 56; but the dimensions of the different parts will be found in other works on Orkney, to which we refer.† There are two perfect triforia round chancel transepts, nave and tower, a staircase at each angle of the tower, and two others from the transepts.

Since the Reformation, the Protestant clergy have, like their Catholic predecessors, shewn much regard for this cathedral; but the poverty of the Presbyterians enabled them only to retard its decay, till the late Gilbert L. Meason, Esq., left a liberal legacy of £1000, the interest of which was appointed to be annually expended in ornamenting and keeping it in repair; and which, under judicious management, effected much in preserving and renovating the building, and increasing the comfort of the place of worship, in the choir, which was immemorially used for a parish church, till within these few years, when government swept away the seats, and began their renovation, on which they have already expended £2000 or £3000; and we understand they intend to lay out a considerable sum yet, to complete the work. During its progress some discoveries have been made.‡ On removing the end of a beam from the large pier on the north side of the choir, at the junction of the addition to the original structure, a space was found containing a human skeleton, which is thought to be that of St. Magnus, with the skull indented on the tip, as if by the stroke of an instrument. The tomb of Bishop T. Tulloch was discovered under the seat on the south side of the choir, between two of the pillars which had been built by him; it contained a chalice and

* From the most recent and correct observations, we understand that the true position of the spire of St. Magnus' Cathedral is 58 deg. 59 min. 31 sec. north latitude, and the length of the pendulum vibrating seconds here is 39·1683 inches.

† See particularly "Ecclesiological Notes on the Isle of Man and the Orkneys."

‡ We gladly avail ourselves of the notices of these discoveries, and of the Picts' Houses, published by Mr. G. Petrie, who has lately raked up some valuable articles from the dust of former ages.

paten, both of wax, at one hand of the skeleton, and a bishop's staff of oak at the other.

Between the two pillars, on the north side of the church, directly opposite to Bishop Tulloch's tomb, one was found, formed of common paving-stone, about 2½ feet in length, by 1¾ in breadth and depth, containing a skeleton doubled up, and an instrument resembling a hammer, with an iron handle, and bone head. At the head of the skeleton was stuck a piece of lead, with these words rudely cut on it "requiescit Williamus senex felicis memoriæ," and on the other side "P'mus Epis."

The word after William has not yet been made out. This appears to have been a re-interment, when the old altar was removed, and may be the skeleton of one of the early Bishops: several of whom were named William, or of the first resident bishop of Orkney.

In an unsuccessful attempt to find the tomb of Earl Robert Stewart, that of his brother, Lord Adam Stewart, son of James V., by Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Lennox, was discovered. Our limits will not permit us to notice particularly the many fine ancient sculptured tombstones with which St. Magnus is enriched.

About 100 yards south of the cathedral are the remains of the two ancient buildings to which we formerly alluded, now complete ruins. The more easterly of the two is the Earl's Palace, built by Patrick Stewart, who obtained the earldom in 1600. It is a beautiful example of the castellated mansion: and its hanging turrets, spacious projecting windows and balconies, have still a very fine effect, while the principal hall, and its arched chimney, are worthy of particular attention. The more westerly edifice is the bishop's palace, which accommodated King Haco and his suite in one of its upper storeys, during the winter of 1263. The north part of it consists of a handsome circular tower (which is square within) built by Bishop Reid, of whom there is a freestone statue, in *alto relievo*, in the north side of the wall. Earl Patrick is understood to have joined his palace to this tower, thereby forming the whole into a hollow square of buildings, open to the north, measuring 240 by 200 feet, which certainly composed a very magnificent and princely residence.

The sadly dilapidated ruins of Kirkwall Castle, built by the first earl, Henry St. Clair, are still to be seen on the west side

of the Broad Street, with a flower-pot in front ; and near the middle of this street is the Town House, an insulated building, containing various public apartments.

On the east side of the bay are the mounds and ditches of Cromwell's Fort, which was constructed by his soldiers, to protect it from attacks by sea. About two miles north-west of the town, at Quanterness, is the famous Picts' House, described by Dr. Barry, but which, unfortunately, has been filled up, so that there is nothing now to be seen of it but a mound of earth.

In its immediate vicinity, and about half way up the western declivity of Wideford Hill, another Picts' House was opened in 1849, constructed, in the ordinary style of these buildings, of large stones, converging towards the top, where it was only about a foot wide. The whole structure was brought to a conical shape with stones and clay, and over all is a thick layer of turf. The apartments discovered are four, all communicating with each other by passages about 18 inches high, and from 15 inches to 2 feet broad, with all the floors on the same level. The largest apartment from which the others branch off is 10 feet long, 5 broad, and 9 feet 3 inches high. The longest, highest, and narrowest of the small apartments is 6 feet 3 inches long, 3 feet 7 inches broad, and 6 feet 6 inches high. The circumference of the tumulus at its base is about 140 feet, and its height from the floors to the top 12 feet. Intermingled with the rubbish which filled three-fourths of the principal apartment, and on the floors of the cells and passages, were found considerable quantities of bones and teeth of various domestic animals, but no human bones.

The "Orkney Library" was instituted at Kirkwall in 1815, and now contains a considerable collection of books. Since that time, other libraries, of a more juvenile description, have been opened to the public here; and religious ones in most of the country parishes.

There are four Dissenting meeting-houses in the town.

18. Having seen all that is worthy of notice in the capital, the traveller may with ease ride round all the East Mainland, or eastern portion of Pomona, in the course of a forenoon ; but we have nothing to hold out as an inducement for undertaking such a journey. It consists of three parishes : viz. St. Andrew's, where Mr. Baikie of Tankerness, the principal proprietor of it,

resides; Deerness, which forms a peninsula; and the fertile parish of Holm, or, as it is pronounced, Ham.

We shall, therefore, now endeavour to conduct the traveller through the West Mainland and the Island of Hoy, by far the most interesting excursion which he can take. A post-gig runs between Kirkwall and Stromness every day, and a phaeton, when required by passengers. The fare along with the mail is 2s., and without it, or in the phaeton, it is 2s. 6d. The hire of a horse for one day is 5s., of a gig 8s., of a phaeton 15s.

Having taken a seat in one of these, or provided ourselves otherwise, let us start for Stromness, which lies nearly twelve miles west of Kirkwall, although the winding road is about fifteen miles long. This road, which is completed the whole way, leads from Kirkwall, along the side of Wideford Hill, whence a view may be had of the South Isles, and the Orkney Mediterranean, and, in a clear day, even of the higher hills of Caithness. From this point the road descends the western slope of the hill, sweeping more northwardly along the Bay of Firth, which opens on the sight, sheltered on all sides but the east by its heathy hills, with the little isle of Damsay, and the Holm in its peaceful bosom. The residence of Mrs. Stewart of Burness, at a distance on the north side, and on the south the manse and glebe, attract the eye; around which the road winds towards the church, and a little farther on through a small village, called Phin's Town, at the west side of the bay. Passing within 300 or 400 yards of the Established Church, first the Free Church, with its neat manse, and then the United Presbyterian Church manse. The dykes by the road are covered with our most superb indigenous flower, the *digitalis purpurea;* the *Trientalis Europæa* grows in a valley over the hills west of the road; the *valeriana officinalis* grows in a burn west of the road and south of the church, as well as in some other places; and various species of rose, willow, &c., are so abundant as to tempt a botanist to make a pedestrian excursion through those steep banks, which are inaccessible in any vehicle. From this village the road turns gradually west, ascending the north side of the Hill of Hedal, for the purpose, we presume, of giving the traveller a view; and he should, therefore, shew his gratitude by enjoying it. In the vale, at the foot, lies the farm of Scarth, much improved by the proprietor, Mr. Scarth of that Ilk, with its tasteful farm-steading. To the north lies the inland parish

of Harray, with its church, on a central rising ground, and within a few hundred yards of it, the Free Church, with its manse and school, and at a greater distance the hills of Birsay. Along the road to the west is the parish of Stennis, or Steinhouse, bounded by the shore of the Loch of Stennis, which communicates with the sea at the Bridge of Waith, and is so extensive that it could not be circumambulated in less than fourteen miles; and at the farther side of this lake lie the hills of Stromness and Sandwick. Toward the south-west the hills of Hoy stretch their huge backs in the distance, or hide their heads in the clouds. Between that point and the south rises a range of hills which, together with those on the other sides, form one vast amphitheatre of the centre of the Mainland. At the sunny side of this latter range lies the parish of Orphir; but, the ancient palace of Earl Paul having almost disappeared, it contains nothing to tempt the traveller from his route; and even the famous field of battle at Bigswell, or Summerdale, in this direction, contains nothing but tumuli to mark the spot. About a furlong north of the road is the house of Turmiston, from which, in "The Pirate," the hero is supposed to have seen the fight which terminated in the blowing up of his vessel near Stromness; which, by the way, he could not possibly do; but this is not the only case in which the wonderful writer of that work has availed himself of his privilege as a novelist, and conquered impossibilities.

19. Near the Church of Stennis, the well-known "Standing Stones," from which the parish gets its name, may be distinctly seen several miles off, suggesting the idea of a conclave of giants. They are well worthy of a visit, being one of the most remarkable antiquities of Orkney, and lying near the public road. They consist, or rather, we regret to say, once consisted, of two distinct clusters of huge stones, without cutting or inscription of any kind on any of them, and placed singly and perpendicularly in the earth, in the form of a circle and semicircle. The latter is nearest to the road on the south side of the loch; but there are now only two upright and one prostrate stone remaining, of a much larger size, however, than the stones of the circle. The prostrate one is eighteen feet four inches, long, five feet four inches broad, and one foot nine inches thick, and only from one to two feet of it were inserted in the earth. This semicircle is fenced round with a mound of

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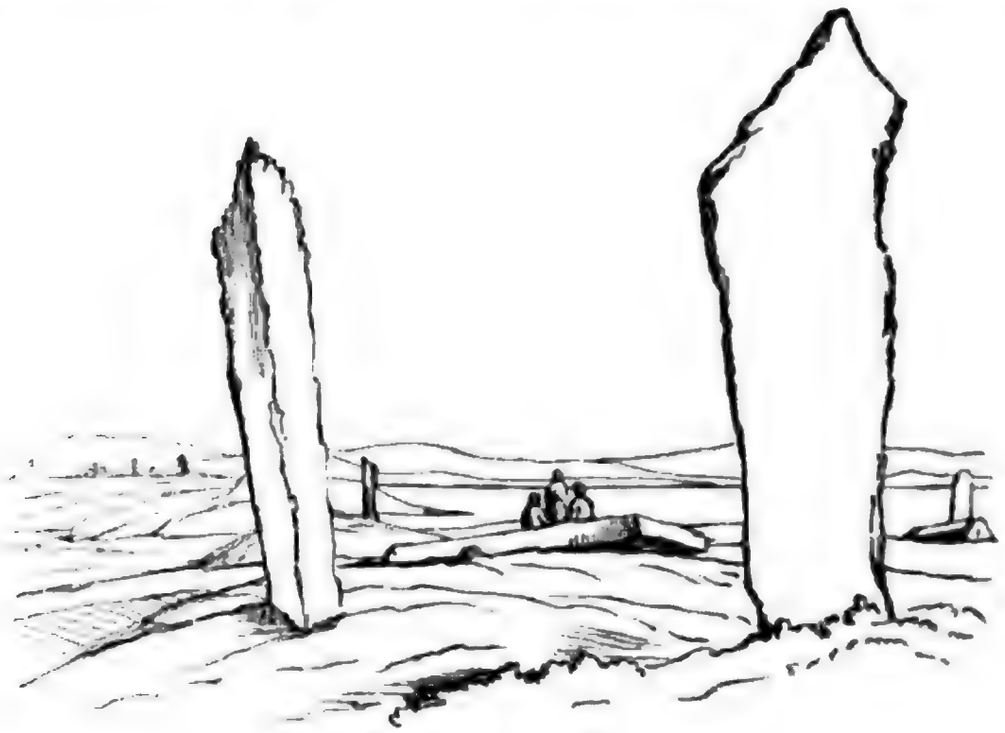
earth, which, when more distinct than it now is, was ninety-six feet in diameter, and consisted of three or four stones in



Standing Stones of Stennis.

addition to those still existing, besides one, a little east of the others, with a hole through it, to which the victims are supposed to have been tied before they were offered in sacrifice on a large horizontal stone in the centre of the structure. About a mile north-west of this lies the circle, on a point of land which extends from Sandwick on the opposite side of the lake, almost dividing it in two, which it probably did entirely at one time; but this is now effected by means of the Bridge of Broigar. At the south end of this bridge stands one stone sixteen feet high, five feet three inches broad, and one foot four inches thick. The stones of the circle are smaller, and have their angles more rounded and worn than those of the former group, which gives them an air of greater antiquity; but they may have been originally smaller, or taken from a softer quarry. At first they probably consisted of about thirty-seven, but some are either entirely prostrate, or have nothing but mere stumps remaining where they formerly stood; so that there are now only sixteen erect that are from three feet to fourteen and a half feet high. They are surrounded by a ditch from thirty-one to thirty-three feet wide, in some places much filled up, and not now above six feet deep. Between the ditch and

the stones is a space of very irregular width, varying from fourteen to twenty-four feet. The circumference of the whole is ten hundred and seventy-one feet. All the stones are of the common schist of the country, and covered over with long lichens, which, like "hoary locks, proclaim their lengthened years;" and their distance from one another indicates that they were never intended for pillars to support other horizontal stones, like the trilithons of Stonehenge. Similar pillars or standing stones are to be found in various parts of the country, and in the immediate neighbourhood are some tumuli of a remarkable size, and several other remains of antiquity. Dr. Hibbert has described the larger circle as a Scandinavian temple dedicated to the sun, and the semicircle as one dedicated to the moon; and he mentions that it was the practice for parties to get betrothed, or to pledge their troth to become man and wife, by shaking hands through the hole in one of the upright stones. It was also usual when a couple, whom the promise of Odin had made husband and wife, without their being married according to the rites of the Christian church, became wearied of each other, to come within the pale of the neighbouring church, in order that the marriage might be rendered null. "They both came to the kirk of Steinhouse," says Dr. Henry of Orkney, "and, after entering the kirk, the one went out at the south, and the other at the north door, by which they were holden to be legally divorced, and free to make another choice."

20. The parish of Stennis, with Firth, forms one ministerial charge. The traveller may pursue his way through the remainder of it, either by the public road, passing the Free Church, with its manse and school, or by the banks of the lake through the town of Cloustoun, if he prefer it. About two miles west of the semicircle he will find the bridge of Waith, "That, with its wearisome but needful length bestrides the wintry flood." This connects the parishes of Stennis and Stromness, and, after passing it, the road turns more southerly towards the town of Stromness, which is two miles farther on. The view of this town, which here bursts on the sight, is at once the most splendid, varied, and interesting in Orkney. The houses are ranged along the bay, where we have seen nearly 100 sail of vessels at once, sheltered from the west by its granitic hills, and on the east by its little holms,

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while the mountains of Hoy form as beautiful a back-ground for the picture as can be conceived. The property east of the road retains the name of Cairston, which the town and bay also formerly had, and belongs to Mr. Pollexfen of Cairston, who has a country house on it, and has improved it much. The stranger having seated himself comfortably in Flett's or Paterson's inn, we shall, "with as much brevity as is consistent with perspicuity," describe the lions of the burgh. Stromness is quite a modern town. Dr. Wallace, in his preface to his father's work, in 1693, calls Kirkwall "the only town in these isles;" and in 1700 he speaks of it as "the only town:" but in the following page, when noticing the principal harbours, he says, "the fourth is at Cairston, a small village at the west end of the Mainland." In 1775, according to Dr. Fea, it contained about 600 inhabitants; and, according to the statistical account of its late venerable minister, who was born in it in 1747, in the beginning of the last century it was "very inconsiderable, consisting only of half a dozen houses with slate roofs, and a few scattered huts." By the same account we learn that it was formerly assessed by the burgh of Kirkwall in the payment of cess or stent; but in 1758 it struck off its degrading fetters, and established not only its own freedom, but that of all its enslaved brethren in Scotland. In 1817 it was erected into a burgh of barony, and the government committed to two bailies and nine councillors, elected by the burgesses. Though it has now little trade, its harbour or bay is so excellent, that many vessels call here for men, provisions, or shelter. A considerable number of whalers, the Hudson Bay vessels, and a Labrador missionary brig, are annually among the number. The population of the burgh is 2057, and that of the country part of the parish attached, 728. There is one street, nearly a mile long, very narrow in some places, but tolerably macadamised. The houses between the street and the water are frequently built below high-water mark; and piers or quays jut out from them into the harbour, at which small vessels unload, and the poor fish for sillocks, which are so abundant here and in other sheltered bays, that, with potatoes, they form the principal food of the people, an anker of them being to be had for 4d. We must remind the naturalist that Stromness is the most interesting geological locality in Orkney—rendered particularly celebrated of late by the publication of "the Asterolepis of Stromness," by

that eminent geologist, Mr. Miller; and that the botanist may gather plenty of the *Primula Scotica* on the hills west of the town, and of the *Scilla verna* on the sea-banks, although they are common also in most parts of these islands. The view of Hoy from the fertile district a mile west is thought, "*parva componere magnis*," to resemble the sublime scenery of Messina in Greece. At this distance, on the sea-shore, are the ruins of the former church, which we regret to learn has of late been partly pulled down. It is surrounded with the burying-ground, and the remains of an old monastery. A mile farther, on the sea-shore, stands the House of Breckness, erected by Bishop Graham in 1633; and from a point half way to it is the best view of the colossal likeness of Sir Walter Scott in the precipice called the Kame of Hoy. From this spot, after rain, may be seen a cataract, falling over the same precipice, of enormous height; but the quantity of water is seldom great.

21. From the great resort of shipping to Stromness, wrecks have frequently happened on this shore; but one wreck will serve to illustrate all. In the storm which arose on Wednesday, the 5th of March 1834, the Star of Dundee, a schooner of seventy-eight tons, was seen, along with other vessels, standing-in on the lee-shore, which it was evident she could not weather; and as she came directly towards the Black Craig, three miles west of Stromness, the spectators ran to the precipice with ropes to render assistance. The violence of the storm, and the shortness of the time, prevented the crew from benefiting by the good intentions of the people on land; for the first wave that bore properly upon her, dashed her so powerfully on the rocks, that she was instantly converted into countless fragments, which the water washed up into a cave at the bottom of the over-hanging cliff, or strewed along the beach; and the spectators retired from the awful scene without the gratification of having saved even one fellow-creature. During the remainder of the week, nothing of consequence was saved, and no vestige of any of the crew was seen. On the morning of the following Sunday, however, to the ineffable astonishment of all, and the terror of the first beholders, one of the crew, who could scarcely be believed to be a human being, presented himself at the top of the precipice, saved by a miracle. It appeared that he was washed up into the cave which we have mentioned, along with a considerable portion of the wreck, which afterwards remained

at the mouth, checking the violence of the waves, so that they did not again penetrate so far as to carry away some red herrings which had been washed in along with the seaman, and which served him for food. By means of a tin *can*, which had been used for oil, he collected fresh water in drops, as it trickled down from the rock. Two pillows were also washed in for his comfort, one of which he made his bed, and the feathers of the other he stuffed into his boots for warmth. He did not complain of cold; for the waves, which at high tide nearly immolated him by throwing in huge stones and blocking him up in his den, gave him sufficient employment at low tide to restore things to order before the next attack. The principal inconvenience which he suffered, was from a sense of suffocation, when the waves darkened his abode by filling up its mouth, and condensed the air within, so as to give the sensation of extreme heat when the wave was in, and of cold when it retired.

22. A public subscription library was instituted in the town in the year 1821, which has already been an example for the establishment of several others in the country. The stranger has access to it gratis. There is here also a museum, which every naturalist and antiquary should visit, as it contains many interesting specimens, though it is yet in its infancy,—the Orkney Natural History Society, to which it belongs, having been instituted in 1837. There is an established church, beside two dissenting ones in the town. Although Stromness is of such modern origin, it is singular that the first novelist and the first poet of the age, have obtained each a hero from its natives, or, at least, from those who are so connected with it as to be considered such. As to Gow or Smith, the hero of "The Pirate," we do not wish to save him from the same ill-gotten fame as is attached to the memory of the jarls, or sea-kings, who preceded him; but we may remark, that some interesting details regarding his history will be found in Mr. Peterkin's "Notes on Orkney;" and the remains of his father's garden may still be seen on the east side of the harbour of Stromness. But on "Torquil, the nursling of the northern seas," we must, in justice, offer a few observations. The traveller will perhaps recollect the poet's description of him, in Canto II. of Lord Byron's "Island:"—

"And who is he? the blue-eyed northern child,
Of isles more known to man, but scarce less wild,
The fair-hair'd offspring of the Hebrides,*
Where roars the Pentland with his whirling seas;
Rock'd in his cradle by the roaring wind,
The tempest-born in body and in mind;
His young eyes, opening on the ocean foam,
Had from that moment deem'd the deep his home," &c.

As Byron has not condescended to enlighten the reader as to his real history, we shall endeavour very briefly to do so. The hero, George Stewart, was a son of Mr. Stewart of Masseter, who resided on a property on which was one of the first houses built with lime in Stromness; hence it is still called the White House, and here his sisters lately lived highly respected. He went to sea about the year 1780, and was a midshipman in the Bounty with Bligh, when he went to transplant the bread-fruit tree of Otaheite to our West India Islands, and he remained on board after the mutiny, contrary to his own wish. Stewart took no part in that transaction; and he is vindicated, in a late publication on the subject, by one who had access to the best information.† He was one of those who perished on the sinking of the Pandora in the following August. We have been favoured with a perusal of two interesting letters, exculpating this handsome and promising youth, which were written to his father in 1792.

Lieutenant Joseph Miller was also a native of Stromness, on whom the command of the Cyane devolved, when, in 1809, she engaged, in the Bay of Naples, and under the guns of the enemy's batteries, a large French frigate, a sloop of war, and a number of gun-boats; and who continued the action for two hours and twenty minutes, till the frigate went down, when he conducted the Cyane safe home. We believe the particulars are mentioned in James's Naval History.

23. While at Stromness, the first fine clear day should be chosen for an excursion to Hoy, all the beauties of which may be seen by a good pedestrian in one day, by making the circuit properly: for that which we propose does not exceed twenty-two or twenty-three miles by sea and land; and seven of these are occupied in the passage to and from the island. The remainder he will find, to his sad experience, to consist of "moss,

* In these three lines we only count three errors of any consequence:—First, his eyes were black, or dark; second, so was his hair; third, he should have said Orcades, instead of Hebrides. But Byron is not the only one who so far forgot his geography as to confound them.

† See Family Library, "Mutiny of the Bounty."

mount, and wilderness, quhairin ar divers great wateris." A pilot-boat may be had for 10s. or another boat for 6s., to go, and wait the return of the party. The part of Hoy to which the boat goes must depend on the tide and wind ; but we recommend that, if the party do not partake of the hospitality of the manse, they should land either at Salwick Little or Whanness, when the boat should be sent to the other place to wait their return : but let them not forget to carry provisions with them. We suppose the party to land at the former place, which we prefer, when practicable. From this, west to the meadow of the Kame is about three miles. Here is the finest echo which we ever had the good fortune to hear ; for, if it does not equal the famous one at Killarney for politeness in replying to a query, it certainly excels it in the impudence with which it repeats the question, and mimics the human voice. If you try to defy its powers, or to crack its voice, by firing a fowling-piece for its imitation, it soon shows how vain the attempt ; for the salute is courteously returned by something more resembling a whole train of artillery, or the thunders of heaven :—

> "The circling hills, all black and wild,
> Are o'er its slumbers darkly piled,
> Save on one side, where far below,
> The everlasting waters flow,
> And, round the precipices vast,
> Dance to the music of the blast."*

The Old Man of Hoy is about four miles from this, and to reach him you must climb the west side of the "circling hills," when you seem somewhat like Mahomet's tomb, while the eagle that builds in the neighbouring precipices often mocks your efforts by soaring and screaming above. Having attained the summit, you bend your course southwards along a most stupendous line of precipices 1000 feet perpendicular above the sea, which washes their base. They are rather a succession of precipices, piled one upon the other, in such a manner as to appear like the remains of some vast building: but what would the proudest monuments of human skill appear if placed in the ocean near them ? or how long would they withstand its fury ? One of the highest parts is Braeburgh, which is almost insulated, and in crossing to it we discovered a fine vein of man-

* See "Orkney," a poem, by Mr. John Malcolm, from which we would frequently have been tempted to quote, had our limits permitted.

ganese. The Old Man is a huge pillar, quite insulated, with arches beneath, which stands so far from the other rocks, that it is a conspicuous object even in Caithness, and it has obtained its name because "it seems to a fanciful view" like the human form. The Burn of Berridale lies about three miles east of this, and is only remarkable for a few stunted shrubs and bushes, which are generally supposed to be indigenous, but which we suspect to have been planted. The botanist will rejoice more to find, on the descent to the burn, abundance of the *Vaccinium Myrtillus;* in several places quantities of the *Empetrum nigrum*, the *Juniperus communis* and *Narthecium ossifragum*, and the *Hypericum elodes*, growing down in the valley. The top of the Wardhill is about two miles farther east, with a very easy ascent on the side next Berridale; but the botanist should take a little excursion up the Green of Gair, and the fissure on the north side of the hill above it, caused apparently by a whin dyke; or along the rocks which encircle the mountain from that eastward, called the Hammers, where he will find the *Dryas octopetala*, *Rhodiola rosea*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *S. Hypnoides*, *Silene acaulis*, *Solidago virgaurea;* and there, or in his way to the "Dwarfie Stone," he may gather the *Lycopodium annotinum*, *L. alpinum*, *L. clavatum*, *L. selaginoides*, *L. selago*, and, as Dr. Neill says, whole acres of *scirpus pauciflorus*. Between this rocky precipitous belt, which is about half way up, and the top, the hill has a more gentle slope, which is covered with *Arbutus alpina*, *A. Uva-ursi*, *Azalea procumbens*, and at the very top, *Lichen frigidus* is plentiful. In 1529 Jo. Ben* says of Hoy,—"Ingentissimus mons hic est, distat enim a terra in pari altitudine tribus milliaribus, ubi ascensus non est:" and in the Statistical Account, about forty years ago, it is stated that "some strangers, with their mathematical instruments, have computed the height of it from the water's edge to the top an English mile." More recent and accurate observations, however, have deprived Orkney of the honour of possessing the highest mountain in Britain, and the luxury of perpetual snow; and Captain Veitch, who pitched his tent here on the trigonometrical survey, with the finest instruments, reduced it to 1555 feet above the level of the sea. It commands a most extensive and interesting view, not only of all the other islands which lie scattered beneath, but of the bold outlines of the mountains of

* John the Benedictine.

Caithness and Sutherland, which stretch out towards Cape Wrath, and of the boundless ocean beyond. There is a fine spring near the summit, on the west side.

From the top to the famous Dwarfie Stone,* which lies about south-east, is two miles, and it may be distinctly seen in descending that side, being the farther east of two immense masses of sandstone, which have probably fallen from the cliffs of the opposite hill, and lodged in the valley, not far from their base. It is not very wonderful as a work of art, but exceedingly so for its antiquity, there being no record or probable tradition of the time of its excavation, or the purpose for which it was intended; but we think the opinion of a celebrated antiquary, with whom we lately visited it, as interesting as it is new. According to him, it was probably, at one time, a heathen altar, and afterwards converted into the residence of a Christian hermit; and this opinion is corroborated by the offerings that used to be left in it by visitors, and such we have deposited in boyhood, with superstitious exactness. The external dimensions of the mass, the upper surface of which inclines to the north-east about 5 deg., are as follows:—Length, from 28 to 28½ feet; breadth, from 13 to 14 feet 8 inches; height above ground, from 6½ to 2 feet. In this huge mass is excavated by art a central apartment, with a bed on each side of it, to the former of which there is access by a door on the west side, and a hole in the top.

The tired traveller who follows the party "haud passibus æquis," will be glad to learn that the nearest sea-shore to which we recommended the boat to go for his reception is only a mile and a half north-east of the Dwarfie Stone; and the botanist may amuse himself on the way by gathering specimens of *Saxifraga aizoides*, and a few specimens of the *Drosera longifolia* and *D. rotundifolia*, in the wettest spots. The passage back to Stromness is four miles, and perhaps will require to be made at the east side of the little island of Graemsay. The population of Hoy, exclusive of Walls, is only 320.

24. We now prosecute our journey through the West Mainland to Birsay, the palace of which lies about twelve miles north of Stromness; and if the traveller be not satiated with the rocky scenery of Hoy, he may travel part of the way along the

* See Sir Walter Scott's "Pirate."

precipices overhanging the sea, where it is impossible to drive, and not very convenient to ride. The principal objects in this line are a fine insulated pillar; the famous figured stones near Skaill, which old writers seem to consider an artificial pavement or Street, but which are nothing more than the weathered strata, the softer parts of which have been washed away, while the harder remain in prominent and often curious relief; and the Hole of Row, which is a lofty natural arch through the precipice, forming the south side of the Bay of Skaill, occasioned by two whin dykes occurring so near each other that the strata between have been pulverised and washed out by the sea as high up as it had power to do so. Immediately south of the arch the stones on the top of the precipice are arranged like those on a beach by the force of the waves, and on the top of one of these crags we once picked up a lump of India-rubber covered with barnacles. Not far from Row, on the nearest part of the coast, is an immense rock, which is well known to have been carried a considerable distance by the sea; it is sixteen feet long, six broad, and three thick, and weighs, we calculate, about twenty-four tons. The public road to Birsay, which is more direct, and generally about two or three miles inland from the west precipices, skirts along the east side of the hills that form the bold west coast, and occasionally affords fine views of the central Mainland. The unruffled surface of the lochs, with the numerous low points of land jutting into them, give these scenes an air of serenity that forms a striking contrast with the continual war that is waged between the raging ocean and frowning crags at a little distance.

About four miles from Stromness the traveller enters the fertile parish of Sandwick at the mill-dam of Voy, the road still holding a northerly course; but if he take any interest in vitrified forts, or rather vitrified cairns, he may take a look at one on the top of Langafiold, about a mile north-east of this mill. About a hundred yards south of this cairn is a large group of tumuli, several of which have been opened by the Natural History Society. They are the sepulchral monuments of a people who burned their dead. In all of them have been found human bones burnt and broken into fragments, and enclosed in graves, lined with flags. In one tumulus six of these graves were found, and in another an urn, which, with other specimens, is now in the museum in Stromness. About 500 yards N. N. W. of this, and 270 yards

S. S. E. of the road, at the Loch of Clumly, are the stones of Via, which till now, have entirely escaped observation, but are worthy of the notice of the antiquary, from their resemblance to a famous cromlech in Anglesea: indeed, the figure of that with the head-stone, in the 150th plate of the Encyclopædia Britannica, published in 1797, might pass for a representation of this monument, before the displacing of its pillars. It is placed nearly in the centre of an old circular enclosure 275 yards in circumference, with a small tumulus, which has lately been opened, on the south side of it. The traveller, if in a vehicle, should proceed by the new road now being formed in a northerly direction from this point, or he may rejoin the old road a little west of the manse, which is conspicuous a mile N. by W. from this, and a mile and a half farther on is the residence of Mr. Watt of Breckness, who farms a considerable portion of his own property in an improved manner. The public road now dwindles into a track which it requires some nicety to keep; but it preserves its northerly course two miles farther on, lying about 200 or 300 yards west of a meeting-house, with a large dwelling-house on each side of it. The population of Sandwick, in which there are two dissenting meeting-houses, is, according to the last census, 1033. It was disjoined from Stromness in 1832, and it would be well if other united parishes would speedily follow such an example. This parish, as well as some others, is so covered over with tumuli, that it would be impossible to point out all their localities; but just after passing its north hill dyke, on the south side of the hill called Vestrafield we would in particular direct the stranger to extensive remains of antiquity, 400 yards or so west of the road, which have never been noticed before, but which are worthy of a visit. Among them are some loose slabs or stones, not far removed from their original bed, of nearly the same form and dimensions as the Standing Stones of Stennis; and it is on this account probable that the rocks here formed the original bed or quarry from which the whole were obtained. The road hence to the palace of Birsay, through the town of Marwick, is about four miles.

25. The earldom of Birsay contains the greatest extent of rich corn land in this county, and it will bear a comparison with many fields in a more southern and favoured climate. Birsay palace, which is situated on the sea shore, and within a hundred yards of the church and manse, was greatly improved

if not altogether remodelled, by Earl Robert Stewart, probably in imitation of Holyrood House, as it is a hollow quadrangle, measuring 158 by 100 feet, with a well in the centre. The buildings were two storeys high, and they have still a magnificent appearance, though quite in ruins, to which condition, we fear, they have been reduced as much by the hands of man as by the effects of time. In the Latin inscription which Earl Robert placed over the gate, but which is now gone, he assumed the title of King of Scotland. It ran thus:—"Dominus Robertus Stuartus, filius Jacobi Quinti *Rex* Scotorum." Probably it was owing rather to want of grammar than of loyalty, but it is said to have operated against his son, when tried for treason. The stone with the name of King Bellus engraven on it, and which is now built in the wall of the church, should be inspected by the traveller; but the Brough, which is insulated at flood tide, and in which is a small part of the ruins, of Christ Church, in which St. Magnus was first buried, contains nothing to detain him. Birsay is the most populous country parish in Orkney, having a population of 1634; yet it is united with the parish of Harray into one charge. Hence the traveller may find his way back through Harray to Kirkwall, which is distant about twenty miles, or, if he prefer a longer route, or a view of more crags and "ghoes," with hill and dale, he may return by the united parishes of Evie and Rendall; but the road through the latter is the most melancholy one that we wot of; while Evie contains nothing but the Brough of Burgar, and some Picts' houses, to excite the interest of the antiquary. Before parting, however, we may mention a few more rare plants which a botanist might wish to collect in this part of the country. The *Anagallis tenella* grows in tufts in wet meadows; *Cakile maritima* on sea shores, particularly in Sanday. *Centaurea nigra*, though common eleswhere, is rare here, growing only in Westray, so far as we know. *Cochlearia danica*, and *C. grœnlandica* common, especially in Stromness. *Epilobium angustifolium*, Trumbland in Rousay. *Primula elatior*, along with *P. veris*, Aikerness in Evie. *Senecio viscosus* in Firth, Harray, &c. *Thlaspi arvense*, Scapay. *Veronica Anagallis*, ditches at Scar, Sanday.

26. Our limits forbid us to go over the north isles, which may be considered the greater tour of Orkney, in the same minute manner as we have described the southern portion, and

we presume that it is unnecessary, as travellers seldom have leisure to make it, and those particularly interested in the country will have access to local directions; but such as are determined to see them all, may either return to Kirkwall, and commence the circuit with Shapinshay, going round against the sun, and taking Dr. Neill's Tour for their guide; or, without returning to the capital, they may make the circuit in the opposite direction, and begin with Rousay, which is two miles distant from Evie. There is a tolerable inn on it, and the burn of Trumbland is deserving of a visit from the botanist; but the camp of Jupiter Fring will disappoint the antiquary. From this to Egilshay is two miles. Here the ancient Scandinavian church should be visited. This Island belongs to Mr. Baikie of Tankerness. From it or Rousay to Tuquoy, or to the manse in Westray, is about eight miles. Here the Westray "gentlemen's cave," Fitty Hill, and the fine ruins of the castle of Noltland, may be visited. The vulgar error that this castle was erected for the Earl of Bothwell, Queen Mary's paramour, is now exploded. It probably arose from confounding the Earl with Bishop Bothwell. For particulars we must refer to "Billings' Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities," where there is not only a good plate of it, but also an excellent account by Mr. Balfour of Trenaby, on whose estate it stands. It is in the neighbourhood of the harbour and village of Pierowall, where there is an inn. This island belongs principally to Mr. Stewart of Brough (who resides on it), Mr. Balfour of Trenaby, Mr. Traill of Holland, and Dr. Traill of Tirlot, professor of medical jurisprudence in the University of Edinburgh. From Tuquoy to Pierowall the walk is about four miles; and from this to Papa Westray the sail is about the same length. On this island another Picts' house, on a much larger scale than that at Wideford Hill, has been opened lately. It has a very long apartment in the centre, communicating with a smaller one at each end, and ranged around these are twelve cells, two of which are double, all communicating with the centre apartment by passages similar in height to those at Wideford Hill. The whole length from the one extremity of the centre apartments to the other is seventy-seven feet, and their breadth and height are the same as those of the principal apartment of that before described. Here are also the ruins of two ancient churches, three vitrified cairns near the north end of the island, and the *muckle* and

peerie ha's (halls ;) but the principal curiosity of Papa is its holm, which, during the hatching season, is covered with the nests of innumerable sea-birds. Papa also belongs to Mr. Traill of Holland, who resides on it, and from whose family all the Traills of Orkney are descended. In his house is a very curious and hospitable invitation to strangers, which was placed above the chimney-piece of the great hall by one of his ancestors above 200 years ago. From Pierowall to Rapness is a walk of seven or eight miles, and not far from the direct line is another "gentlemen's cave ;" so called, because some who were thought to be engaged in the rebellion of 1745, were concealed here for a short time. We have been in both caves ; but recollecting that half our party would not venture into the former, we would recommend this as having a much easier access.

27. From Rapness to Cuthesvoe in Eday is three miles, and the walk thence to Calfsound, where there is a comfortable public-house, is about two miles. This island is the property of Mr. Laing of Papdale, who is brother to the historian of Scotland, whom he succeeded. It is covered with a great quantity of peat-moss, and furnishes firing to most of the north isles. From Calfsound to Pool, or Hecklabor in Sanday, is three miles ; and from thence to Scar, or Savil, is a walk of eight miles, which passes near the manse of Cross parish. Adjoining Savil is a mass of gneiss, weighing about fourteen tons, though the nearest primitive district is at Stromness. About four miles from this spot is a comfortable inn called Castle Hill. From Scar, or Savil, to north Ronaldshay, the breadth of sea is seven miles, and the walk from the landing-place to the remains of a lighthouse about three miles. North Ronaldshay, the most northern of the Orkneys, belongs to Mr. Traill of Woodwick, whose tenants, the natives, are considered more primitive in their manners than those of any other part of Orkney. From the lighthouse back to Bridesness is three miles ; from that to the Start, or Taftsness in Sanday, is seven miles. The walk from the Start lighthouse through the extensive plain of Fidge to Kettletoft is seven miles. Here the antiquary should visit the vitrified cairns of Elsness, of which there are above twenty, and which Dr. Hibbert has lately brought into notice with so much effect, as bearing on the question of vitrified forts. The adjoining Ward hill should also be examined, if time permit.

Sanday is a low, sandy, fertile, and extensive island, the principal proprietor of which is Mr. Traill of Hobister, M. P., who has a residence on it. From Kettletoft to Papa Sound in Stronsay is seven miles. This is the great station for herring curing in the north isles, and it has already given rise to a village, and a considerable pier, to facilitate the operations of loading and unloading. The neighbouring property, the value of which is thus greatly enhanced, belongs to Mr. Laing. From Whitehall to Lambhead is a walk of five or six miles. Here is a Pict's house, the interior of which may yet be seen; and directly below it are the remains of a very ancient and extensive pier, the existence of which has only of late become known. From Rothiesholme or the neighbouring parts of Stronsay, to the Ghoe of Shapinshay, is about seven miles; and from thence to Elwick is a walk of six miles. Here Balfour is situated, the splendid mansion lately erected by Mr. Balfour of Trenaby, which is a conspicuous object from Kirkwall, and all the neighbourhood. It is in the old style, and resembles Abbotsford at a little distance—like that, it contains many copies from the beauties of ancient architecture. We believe there is nothing equal to it north of Dunrobin; and had not that been lately enlarged, there would have been no such building in the north of Scotland.* The whole island belongs to Mr. Balfour, it is naturally bad, but has lately been much improved by draining. From Elwick to Carness, the nearest part of the Mainland, the distance is nearly two miles.

28. It is proper to state that these ferries are under no regulation that we know of. We have therefore stated below what will be a liberal allowance for a lobster-boat with two men, which is generally sufficient in summer; but if a large boat or more hands are required, the freight must be increased. If the traveller prefer crossing to Caithness in the course of the post, the distances and freights are as follows:—From Kirkwall to Holm the road is seven miles long; from Holm to Burray is three miles, freight 2s., or with the mail only 4d. The walk across Burray is two miles: from this to south Ronaldshay is one mile, freight 6d., or, with the mail, 2d. From the landing-place to Burwick, on the south end of the island, the

* Mr. Matheson's fine castle of Stornoway must be also excepted, and it is somewhat remarkable, that the distant isles of the Orkneys and Lewis should be thus distinguished.

distance is eight miles; and from the latter place, Houna, on the south side of the Pentland Firth, is about six miles distant, freight 10s., or, in company with the mail, 1s. The post-boat crosses to and from Orkney every day when the weather will admit of it; and though this passage across the Pentland Firth may appear dangerous to strangers, and has deprived some timid travellers of a view of the *Ultima Thule*, we can assure them, for their comfort, that only one post-boat has been lost in the firth during the last 100 years, and that one was run down. There is an inn at each of the ferries just mentioned; but we believe the best is Allan's at St. Margaret's Hope. South Ronaldshay is the great station for herring-curing in the south isles. From it to Walls is about five miles; to which a passage may be had for 5s., or, with the mail, 1s. Here is the fine bay of Long Hope, which is greatly resorted to by shipping. It has two martello towers to defend it, and the adjoining property is divided between the crown and Mr. Heddle of Melsetter, who has a country house in Walls.

We may finally add, that the ferry hire, or cost of a boat, among these islands, though under no public regulation, should be :—

	£	s.	d.
From Evie to Rousay, about	0	1	6
Trumbland, in Rousay, to Egilshay	0	1	6
Rousay or Egilshay to Tuquoy, or to the Manse of Westray	0	8	0
Pierowall to Papa Westray (including the return freight)	0	5	6
Rapness, in Westray, to Cuthesvoe, in Eday	0	2	6
Calfsound, in Eday, to Pool or Hecklabor, in Sanday	0	2	6
Scar or Savil to North Ronaldshay	0	5	0
Bridesness, in North Ronaldshay, to the Start or Taftsness, in Sanday	0	6	0
Kettletoft, in Sanday, to Papa Sound, in Stronsay	0	6	0
North Ronaldshay to Fair Isle	1	10	0
Fair Isle to Sumburgh, in Zetland	1	5	0

29. To the foregoing minute and interesting details, which the authors of this work have no doubt will prove extremely useful to the tourist—and which are the more valuable as they proceed from the pen of a clergyman, the Reverend Charles Clouston, minister of Sandwick, a native of Orkney—the compilers take the liberty of adding a few extracts from their own notes of the sail from Kirkwall to Papa Westray, as they conceive them more descriptive of the *general* characters of the north isles, or at least of such as are likely to strike the eye of strangers :—

Immediately after leaving Kirkwall, whose shipping and spires continue long in view, we find ourselves bewildered among an archipelago of land-locked islands. It is almost impossible to conceive with what feelings of security you plough this stormy sea, for you are all the time as completely surrounded with land as if you were sailing on the unruffled bosom of Loch Lomond. First appear the beautiful long green fields of Shapinshay, which are cultivated upon the best and newest system by an enlightened proprietor; soon thereafter you see the termination of the hills of Pomona, and far behind the towering ones of Hoy; while at your side a number of green holms start up from the watery waste, affording summer's pasture to a few bleating sheep, and throwing the running tide in curling eddies from their banks. To the north and west you behold the high and broken hills of Rousay and Westray, the latter of which approach nearer the peaked or conical shape than any others in Orkney; and to the east you have these contrasted by the low sweeping rocks of Faray and Eday.

After passing the Firth of Westray, through which a most powerful and rapid tide runs, which is generally accompanied by a heavy swell and breakers, you steer in between the Holm of Faray and the Butt of Rapness. In this channel, in consequence of the tendency of all the waters towards the great body in Westray Firth, the current is said to flow only for three hours, and to ebb for nine. Before this the scenery is beautifully variegated, and we are surrounded by hills or projecting rocks; but, on turning the point just named, and looking directly north, you immediately perceive the boundless expanse of the German Ocean. If the day be particularly fine and clear, you can descry Sanday and North Ronaldshay, both of which, as the name of the former expresses, are low, and therefore very dangerous to shipping. In a thick day they are chiefly known by the darkness of the atmosphere over them; and, indeed, always appear as long black clouds on the horizon. Near Rapness we were shewn a cave, in which twelve gentlemen, who were persecuted in the *forty-five* by the Hanoverian partisans for their attachment to Prince Charles, concealed themselves for a whole winter, without even lighting a fire, or attempting to fish, or even to take any exercise. By the care of an old man, who furnished them with food, they survived the immediate search of the bloodthirsty executors of a cruel law, but none of them ever completely recovered the colds and rheumatism caught in those damp pestilential prison-houses, where they were often awakened by the noise and wetting of the spray.

* * * * * *

30. *Papa Westray.*—The coasts of this little isle of the ocean are bold and rocky, and of course extremely rugged, from the unequal dash of the surrounding waves, which drive in immense quantities of sea-weed, for kelp and manure, on the shore. Its upper surface is, however, smooth and undulating; and, where not turned up by the plough, is covered with a rich carpeting of short green turf. On this meadow-ground numbers of small black cattle and more diminutive sheep are seen browsing in calm and undisturbed security, and which must be hailed by the mariner approaching from distant lands as the first cheering signs of life and joy. The lower flats, and many of the rising sunny braes, are finely cultivated; and, besides the more regular fields of the intelligent proprietor, they exhibit the usual variegated and fantastical appearance of lands laid out in common or run-rig.

It is a singular circumstance that this, one of the most northerly, and, to previous expectation, the most cold and barren of the Orkney Isles,

should be one of the mildest and most fertile, and that the same characters apply to the opposite ones of North Ronaldshay and Sanday. The most interesting appearance about Papa, to a stranger, is that of the sun either rising over the dark outline of this latter island, or setting in the waves of the Western Ocean. In either of these aspects, he is grand and beautiful, causing the eye to hail him as if awakening into life in the morning from the land of past and dim romance; or, on being received at night into the bosom of the Atlantic, he seems to leave us lone and desolate, exposed to the whistling wind and surge's roar, or startled at the wild foreboding cry and gleaming forms of the revolving sea-birds.

Let the stranger now pass some time in examining the Holm, a small island some hundred yards off the eastern coast, inhabited only by a few poor sheep, but still retaining the subterranean remains of several Pictish houses, and the graves of some shipwrecked seamen. To the naturalist it is one of the most interesting spots in the Orkneys, as it exhibits the last expiring efforts of vegetation, and more particularly as its retired and unfrequented position makes it the welcome haunt of innumerable flocks of sea-fowl. Whenever they notice the approach of your boat, they begin to fly in circling eddies round your head, and raise such a deafening noise, that, till such time as one gets accustomed to it, you can scarcely hear your next neighbour speak, or attend to any other thing but their cries. The side of the Holm next Papa is low and grassy, and is consequently left to the dominion of the sheep; but the opposite side, which sustains the full surge of the Northern Ocean, is bare, and strewed with masses of rock and loose stones and slate, raised up by the winter's tide. Among these, as thick as they can lie, and exposed to all the changes of the weather, and even to the careless foot of the passing stranger, are deposited the eggs of the sea-birds, protected only by a few reeds and feathers, or by the projecting edge of a piece of slate or stone. These birds are principally of the gull, guillemot, kittiwake, and auk tribes; but lower down, in the more inaccessible and secure parts of the rocks, are seen rows of cormorants, divers, and puffins. They are so tame, especially the cormorants or skarfs, that they will allow you to knock them down with stones, or (it is said) even suffer themselves to be caught by strings with moveable loops thrown over their necks. The most interesting sight, however, and the only one of the kind to be met with in any of the Orkney Islands, is that of a flock of Eider Ducks (*Anas molissima*) of about thirty in number, which make this holm their annual breeding-place. They always keep together, are larger than the common duck, of a brown colour, and they lay their eggs in nests formed of their own soft down. These you may rob twice; but if molested a third time (when the drake pulls off his own breast feathers to add to those of the female), they will forsake the place, and perhaps never return to it again. The proprietor is, in consequence, very careful of his flock, and seldom allows anybody to go near them. Of the young gulls, which are here called skorays, however, he takes away great quantities (perhaps forty or fifty dozen in a season), and, when properly dressed, they taste almost as good as brandered chickens. At a later period of the year, the young kittiwakes are sent for; and these, with their eggs, form a constant supply of food to the laird's farm-servants.

NATURAL HISTORY OF ORKNEY.

31. There is no portion of the British empire where the natural products have been longer or are better known than in Orkney. The Rev.

George Low of Birsay, at the instigation of Sir Joseph Banks and Mr. Pennant, early laid the foundation, in his "Fauna Orcadensis," on which the superstructure has been completed by the labours of Dr. Wallace, Dr. P. Neill, Dr. Traill, and, latterly, of our friend the Rev. Charles Clouston, and his associates, the members of the Orkney Natural History Society. Mr. Hugh Miller's Foot-Prints of the Creator, or the *Asterolepis of Stromness*, may also be added to this interesting list of local authorities. We have already enumerated the most rare phænogamous plants occurring in Hoy and some of the other islands, and we may add that the whole Flora amounts now to 610 species, of which 183 are sea-weeds—a most beautiful tribe of plants, and which here occur of the largest sizes and most varied colours. The only Orkney plant new to Britain, is *Chara Aspera*, and the most beautiful and peculiar species are, *Primula Scotica Scilla Verna*, *Dryas Octopetala*, and *Rhodiola Rosea*, exclusive, however, of the true alpine plants of the Wardhill in Hoy. The professed botanist will find very ample details in the last statistical account of the parish of Sandwick, and in the general observations in that work on the county of Orkney: and to the first edition of this Guide we beg also to refer for a full enumeration of the Algæ, and of the process of manufacture of *kelp* from the coarser kinds of sea-weed. The land and water birds of Orkney are likewise exceedingly numerous and interesting, and Mr. Forbes, schoolmaster in South Ronaldshay, is the person of all others to whom the practical ornithologist should apply for information as to their habits and localities.

With regard to the geology of these islands, we stated in the first edition of this work that a high central nucleus or ridge of primary gneiss rocks, occasionally passing into mica schist, occurs in the Mainland, stretching for about six miles north-west from the neighbourhood of Stromness, in the direction of Skaill. These rocks are sometimes granitic and traversed by felspar and quartz veins. (2.) They are succeeded chiefly on their southern flank, in Stromness Bay and the island of Graemsay, by a small deposit, from 50 to 100 yards broad, of coarse *conglomerate*, embedded in *old red sandstone*, on which (3.) repose immense sheets of silicious, and calcareo-silicious, and argillaceous flagstones, having bituminous matter interspersed, (and which were sometimes described as Graywacke slates,) which compose the base or fundamental rocks of almost all the other islands. (4.) Above these, again, are found, as on the Caithness coast, high, bluff headlands, and in Hoy the lofty masses of the Wardhill, (1600 feet in altitude), of a soft, generally grey or red, sandstone, which a few years ago was regarded, by both British and continental geologists, as a deposit of the upper or *new red sandstone* formation; but which, from the recent discovery throughout it of precisely the same organic remains of fishes and plants as occur in Caithness, and on both sides of the Moray Firth, has been proved to be only a member, and that the uppermost, of the old red sandstone formation. The organisms referred to, link the whole together as the product of the same geological era, and therefore it would be improper any longer to retain the names by which the superior and under portions of the same formation were formerly distinguished. For details, we beg to refer to Mr. Miller's works on the *Old Red Sandstone*, and the *Asterolepis of Stromness*. Chert, flint, slate or Lydian stone, Galena or leadglance, iron and copper pyrites, Hæmatite, with heavy spar, and the curious compound of sulphate of barytes, with carbonate of strontia, called *Stromnesite*, or *Barrystrontianite*, occur in these rocks, but not in such abundance as to make any of them valuable to the miner. (5.) All the secondary deposits now enumerated are

traversed by numerous dykes, veins, and beds of trap rocks, which have greatly disturbed and altered the originally horizontal strata, and from their superior hardness those trap dykes too frequently present themselves in the form of dangerous reefs and promontories jutting far out into the sea, or shooting up in detached knolls and pinnacles. The base of the "Old Man of Hoy" consists of an irruptive porphyry rock, supporting an isolated crown of sandstone on its top; the cleft of the Green of Gair, near the summit of the Ward hill, has been long supposed by Mr. Clouston to have been caused by a trap dyke now crumbled away; in the south-east side of the same island, at Walls, a mass of amygdaloidal trap extends nearly 600 yards along the coast; and the trap appears also to have been penetrated through the primitive granitic gneiss at its northern extremity. (6.) The alluvial formations of Orkney are not varied or interesting, as the gravel banks are seldom deep, and the soil for the most part is a clayish loam, resulting from the decomposition of the slaty rocks. Beds of marl and bog iron ore are frequent, and the peat mosses exhibit the roots and stumps of large trees where none will now grow; and in two or three spots portions of a submerged forest have been found, where the stems of pines adhering to their parent soil are seen laid prostrate by the waves, and covered over with sand, after the fall of the rocks on which they grew. A bank of indurated shells, clay, and sand, occurs round many of the islands, which effectually resists in numerous places the encroachments of the sea, and of which considerable quantities have been used in fertilising the soil, and which is also sometimes conveyed away as ballast by vessels, and sold for manure.

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SECTION NINTH.—PART II.

THE ZETLAND ISLANDS.

Position and General Features of the Shetland or Zetland Islands, paragraph 1. Climate; Length of the Day in Summer, 2.—Voyage from Leith, 3.—Fair Isle, 4. Roust of Sumburgh; Sillocks, or Coalfish, 5.—Dress of the Shetland Fishers, 6. Address and Language of the People, 7.—Ancient History of Shetland; Harold Harfager's Conquest; Early Scandinavian Earls of Orkney, 8.—Ancient Measures of Land; Udal and Scattald, 9.—Ancient Division of the Foudrie of Shetland; Law of Udal Succession, 10.—First Appearance of Feudalism on the Accession of Shetland to the Scottish Dominions; the Scottish Earls of Orkney and Shetland, 11.—Earls Robert and Patrick Stewart; their Illegal and Oppressive Acts, 12. The Islands pass ultimately to the Morton and Dundas Families, 13.—*Itinerary*: Dunrossness; Quendal; the Cliff Hills; Burgh of Mousa, 14.—Scalloway Castle; Tingwall, 15.—Lerwick, 16.—Bressay Island and Cradle of Noss, 17.—Whalsey and Outskerries, 18.—Fetlar; Unst; Chromat of Iron, Hydrate of Magnesia, and other minerals, in Unst; Skua Gull, 19.—Yell; Ca'ing Whales; Falcons, 20. The Haaf or Deep Sea Fish, 21.—Fudeland, 22.—Roeness Hill; Villains of Urie, 23.—Papa Stour, 24.—Foula, 25.—Sketch of the Natural History of Shetland; its Botany, Zoology, and Geology, 26.

"The storm had ceased its wintry roar,
Hoarse dash the billows of the sea;
But who on Thule's desert shore
Cries, Have I burned my harp for thee?"

MACNIEL.

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1. THE group of islands comprehended under the general name of Shetland, Zetland, *Hialtlandia*, or the Thule of the ancient Romans, exceeds a hundred in number; but of these, only between thirty and forty are inhabited, and they occupy a tract near the junction of the German and Northern Oceans, extending, exclusive of Fair Isle, between 59° and 60° 50′ north latitude, and lying about forty-seven leagues from Buchanness, on the Aberdeenshire coast, and ninety-six leagues from Leith; while their longitude is about one degree west of the meridian of London.*

* The best authorities the reader can refer to regarding this group of islands, are Dr. Arthur Edmonstone's "View of the Ancient and Present State of the Shetland Islands," in two vols. 8vo.; published by Ballantyne & Co., Edinburgh, in 1809; the recent Parochial Reports in the New Statistical Account of Scotland, with the general observations on the county in that work, by Laurence Edmonston, Esq., M. D.; Professor Jameson's "Mineralogical Travels;" and Dr. Samuel Hibbert's "Description of the Shetland Islands, comprising an Account of their Geology, Scenery, Antiquities, and Superstitions, with a Geological map, and numerous plates;" published by Constable & Co., in one large quarto volume, in the year 1822.

These islands, although magnificent and varied in their cliff scenery, are not imposing at a distance, as their general height above the sea is inconsiderable, the loftiest hill, that of Roeness, in the parish of North Mavine, only attaining about 1500 feet of elevation; while the surface of the country is seldom broken into rough picturesque summits, but disposed in long undulating heathy ridges, among which are very many pieces of flat swampy ground, and numerous uninteresting fresh-water lakes. Hence the grandeur and diversified appearance of the land is not perceived by the stranger, till he approaches close to the shore; but then, as his bark is hurried on by the sweeping winds and tides, the projecting bluff headlands and continuous ranges of rocky precipices begin to develope themselves, as if to forbid his landing, as well as to defy the further encroachments of the mighty surges by which they have so long been lashed.

Although, of course, treeless, and almost shrubless, and, in general, brown and heathy, the pastures of Zetland nevertheless frequently exhibit broad belts of short velvety sward, adorned with a profusion of little meadow plants, the more large and beautiful in their flower-cups, as the size of their stems is stunted by the boisterous arctic winds. Many very beautiful cultivated spots occur, especially towards the southern end of the mainland; and the retired mansions of the clergy and gentry, scattered throughout the islands, are uniformly encircled with smiling fields, and occasionally with garden ground.

Besides the connected ranges of precipices, there are everywhere to be seen immense pyramidal detached rocks, called *stacks*, rising abruptly out of the sea, both near and at a great distance from land, the abodes of myriads of seafowl; and some of them are perforated by magnificent arches of great magnitude and regularity, while in others there are deep caverns and subterranean recesses.

Large landlocked bays, protected from the fury of the ocean by rocky breastworks and islets, afford numerous sheltered havens to boats and shipping; and the long narrow arms and inlets of the sea, called *ghoes*, or *voes*, which almost penetrate from side to side of the islands, diversify the surface, and exhibit innumerable varieties of cliff scenery, and contending tides and currents.

2. Although exceedingly tempestuous, foggy, and rainy,

especially when the wind blows from the south or west, the climate of Zetland is, from its insular position, on the whole, milder than its high latitude would otherwise occasion, and the inhabitants are hence athletic and healthy; but the seasons are so uncertain, the vicissitudes of temperature so rapid and frequent, and the autumnal gales so heavy, that but little dependence is to be placed on the grain crops raised in the islands. The winter, although not characterised by much snow and frost, is dark and gloomy; but this is counterbalanced and compensated by the great continued light of the summer months, during which the night is almost as bright as the day. "The nights," as remarked by Dr. Edmonstone, "begin to be very short early in May, and from the middle of that month to the end of July darkness is absolutely unknown. The sun scarcely quits the horizon, and his short absence is supplied by a bright twilight. Nothing can surpass the calm serenity of a fine summer night in the Zetland Isles. The atmosphere is clear and unclouded, and the eye has an uncontrolled and extensive range; the hills and headlands then look more majestic, and they have a solemnity superadded to their grandeur; the water in the bays appears dark, and as smooth as glass; no living object interrupts the tranquillity of the scene, but a solitary gull skimming the surface of the sea; and there is nothing to be heard but the distant murmuring of the waves among the rocks."

3. The most regular and easy mode of reaching Zetland is either by a sailing vessel from Leith to Lerwick, or by the steamer, which, from Aberdeen, carries the mail-bag, and sails, on an average, once a-week in summer. And if the visitor, upon approaching the more southerly point of the Zetland coasts, has an opportunity of engaging a sailing-boat, he will find it by much the best mode of ensuring for himself a minute and careful examination of the Zetland coasts.

4. We shall suppose, therefore, that the weather is propitious, and that our tourist has got past the Pentland Firth and Orkneys, and is leaving Fair Isle a few leagues to the westward of his direct course, ruminating on the unfortunate fate of the Duke of Medina Sidonia, the admiral of the celebrated invincible Spanish armada, who, after his defeat in the memorable year 1588, retreated northward, pursued by the English squadron, and was shipwrecked on this bleak inhospitable shore:

and whose crew, after great sufferings, were mostly murdered by the barbarous natives, to prevent a famine in the isle; the

Fair Isle.

duke, with a small remnant, being permitted to escape in a little vessel to Quendal, on the mainland of Shetland, where they were kindly entertained, and ultimately assisted in their return through France to the fertile valleys of Old Spain.

No sooner do the rocks of Fair Isle recede from observation, than FITFIEL HEAD (the *white mountain*), a considerable hill

Fitfiel Head.

in the south of the mainland of Zetland, first rises to view; and a contiguous one, to the east of it, less elevated, named SUMBURGH HEAD; the general features of the bleak low hills of the district of Dunrossness also soon thereafter multiplying on our sight.

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5. But, before reaching land, our vessel must have a rocking in the *Roust* of Sumburgh, the Scandinavian term applied to a strong tumultuous current, occasioned by the meeting of the rapid tides, which here join from the opposite sides of Shetland, and rush towards the Fair Isle. Even when the sea generally is calm, and when viewed from the adjoining headland, there is in the Roust the appearance of a turbulent stream of tide, about two or three miles broad, in the midst of the smooth water, extending a short distance from Sumburgh, and then gradually dwindling away, so as to terminate in a long slender dark line, bearing towards Fair Isle. At the beginning of each daily flood, the tide in the Roust is directed to the eastward, until it passes the promontory of Sumburgh: it then meets with a south tide, that has been flowing on the east side of the country; when a divergement takes place to the south-east, and lastly to the south. At high water there is a short cessation of the tide, called the STILL: the ebb now begins, first setting north-west, and then north, until the commencement of the flood. The various directions of the tides of Zetland are no doubt owing, in a considerable degree, to modifications which take place from the number and form of the various headlands and inlets of the coast; but, since they are propagated at successive intervals of time, it is evident that at the northerly and southerly extremities of the Shetland archipelago they would be naturally opposed to each other. Vessels have been known, when falling into the Roust in a calm, to be tossed to and fro between Fitfiel Head and Sumburgh Head, a distance of no more than three miles, for five days together; and, while the sea here is always heavy, in a storm the waves rise mountains high.

In the Roust of Sumburgh there is a considerable fishery for the *Gadus carbonarius*, or coal-fish, called here the seethe, elsewhere the cuddie; and their young, which enter the bays in myriads (while the full-grown fish sport among the most tumultuous waves), are known under the name of *sillocks*. The seethe, which, from the size of an inch, sometimes attains the length of three feet, is caught by hand-lines, baited with haddock or shell-fish; and our proximity to land is announced, in good weather, by the appearance of numerous boats fishing for them and for cod

Although the fry of the coal-fish, in general, frequent retired

bays, yet their favourite resort is often among the constant floods and eddies near sunken rocks and bars that are alternately covered and laid bare by the waves, and the smaller fry appear to covet the security of thick plantations of sea-ware, within the shelter of which they are screened from the keen look-out of their natural enemies of the feathered race. As remarked by Dr. Hibbert, "There is, probably, no sight more impressive to the stranger who first visits the shores of Zetland than to observe, on a serene day, when the waters are perfectly transparent and undisturbed, the multitudes of busy shoals, wholly consisting of the fry of the coal-fish, that nature's full and unsparing hand has directed to every harbour and inlet.

"As the evening advances, innumerable boats are launched, crowding the surface of the bays, and filled with hardy natives of all ages. The fisherman is seated in his light skiff, with an angling rod or line in his hand, and a supply of boiled limpets near him, intended for bait. A few of these are carefully stored in his mouth for immediate use. The baited line is thrown into the water, and a fish is almost instantaneously brought up. The finny captive is then secured, and while one hand is devoted to wielding the rod, another is used for carrying the hook to the mouth, where a fresh bait is ready for it, in the application of which the fingers are assisted by the lips. The alluring temptation of an artificial fly often supersedes the use of the limpet; and so easily are captures of the small fry made, that young boys, or feeble old men, are left to this business, which not unfrequently is carried on from the brink of a rock, while the more robust natives are engaged in the deep-sea fishery, or the navigation of the Greenland seas."

The Scandinavian character of the natives first becomes evident in the form and lightness of their boats or yawls, the planks of which are still imported from Norway, so modelled by the hands of the carpenter, that, when they arrive in Shetland, little more labour is required than to put them together. These boats are generally about eighteen feet in keel, and six feet in beam; they carry six oars, and are furnished with a square sail. Their extreme buoyancy, and the ease with which they cut the waves, are the circumstances insisted on by the fishermen, as rendering their construction particularly adapted to the stormy seas upon which they are launched.

6. "The boat dress of the fisherman is, in many respects, striking and picturesque. A worsted covering for the head, similar in form to the common English or Scotch nightcap, is dyed with so many colours, that its bold tints are recognised at a considerable distance, like the stripes of a signal flag. The boatmen are also invested, as with a coat of mail, by a surtout of tanned *sheepskin*, which covers their arms, and descends from below their chin to their knees, while, like an apron or kilt, it overlaps their woollen *femoralia:* for, with the latter article, it is needless to observe, the Shetlander is better provided than the Gaelic Highlander. The sheepskin garb has generally an exquisite finish given to it by boots of neatskin materials, not sparing in width, reaching up to the knees, and altogether vieing in their ample dimensions with the notable leather galligaskins with which painters have long been wont to encompass the royal calves of Charles XII. when they have represented him as planning the trenches of Fredericshal. There can be no doubt that this leathern dress is of Scandinavian origin; a similar one is still worn in the Faroe Isles, and Bishop Pontoppidan describes the same as being common in his time among the peasantry of Norway. This ponderous and warm coriaceous garb is, however, sometimes disdained by the younger and more hardy natives, who content themselves with a common sea-jacket and trowsers of the usual form, and, in place of the worsted cap, with a plain hat of straw."

7. Should the tourist, desirous of exploring the country right before him, take leave of his vessel at the nearest point of Dunrossness, which is about thirty miles south of Lerwick, he will probably be struck with the high sharp accent and rapid utterance of the first person who accosts him, the prevailing manner of speech of the Shetlanders resembling much more that of the inhabitants of England than of Scotland, and having also none of the slow drawl of the Highlander, but much of the modulated and impassioned tones of the Irish. The first question likely to be put to the stranger, preceding even the usual interrogatories of name, country, occupation, destination, and so forth, will be about the price of oatmeal in Leith, with which it is of course expected that he should be as much interested as the natives themselves. This is very natural; the precariousness of their crops, from the uncertainty of the climate, rendering these poor islanders very dependant on foreign

supplies for the luxury of meal, which is often too scarce to be used as a necessary article of daily consumption.

8. The history of few secluded communities can, in some respects be more fraught with interest than that of the inhabitants of Zetland; although the picture, especially in its central parts, is almost exclusively a melancholy one, exhibiting the patient endurance, by a generous people, of very many grievances, at the hands, not of their own ancient Norwegian *udal* landlords, but of tyrannical strangers intruding on them as *feudal* superiors, after their connexion with the crown of Scotland; and these foreigners themselves being often but temporary possessors, renting the islands from their sovereigns for a mere trifle, and endeavouring to repair their finances, for the most part desperate, by grinding down the poor.

From the slight notices in the ancient classics, and from more recent authentic records, it has been rendered probable by Dr. Hibbert that the successive early colonists of Orkney were composed of Celtic, Saxon, and Scandinavian tribes, but that the first sect never reached Zetland, in no part of which are Celtic names of places to be found. The general result of this very learned author's researches has thus enabled him to keep in view three great periods in the history of these islands. "In the first period, when Agricola visited Orkney, a Celtic race very probably inhabited the country, who appear to have completely forsaken it a century and a half afterwards, since it was described by Solinus, in the middle of the third century, as a complete desert. In the second period, Orkney, and probably Shetland also, were infested by a Gothic tribe of Saxon rovers, who were routed, A. D. 368, by Theodosius. In the third period, probably at or before the sixth century, succeeded in the possession of these islands, the Scandinavians, who were the progenitors of the present race of inhabitants in Orkney and Shetland."

HAROLD HARFAGER, or the FAIR-HAIRED, having, as Norwegian poets narrate, to please his love, the Princess Gida, reduced all Norway under his power, in the year 875, was roused to avenge the devastations and slaughter committed on the coasts of his kingdom, by the numerous pirates and petty princes who had escaped from their native land, impatient of his yoke, and who had settled themselves in Iceland, Faroe, Shetland, and Orkney. He soon freed the seas from these

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hordes, and subjugated all the islands adjoining the north of Scotland, including the Hebrides. Harold then offered the conquered provinces of Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland as one earldom, to a favourite warrior, Ronald, Count of Merca; but this nobleman, being more attached to a Norwegian residence, resigned the grant in favour of his brother Sigurd, who was accordingly elected the first Earl of Orkney, and from whom sprang the true Scandinavian dynasty of the Earls of Orkney and Shetland, the latter country being at first too insignificant to be included in the title, although it was comprehended in the grant. The earldom was unfettered by any homage to a superior; and Sigurd, the first earl, by an alliance with Thorfin, son of the King of Dublin, soon greatly extended his dominions by the conquest of Caithness, Sutherland, and part of Ross and Moray shires.

9. But both for the support of the new earl, and that the islands and coasts which he had subdued might no longer be a refuge to his foes, Harold Harfager peopled them by individuals firm in their attachment to the crown of Norway; and, in a partition of the vanquished territories among the first colonists, the magnitude of shares would of course be regulated by military or civil rank and services. "But in measuring out allotments in proportional shares," says Dr. Hibbert, "it would be necessary to resort to some familiar standard of valuation. The Norwegians, in the time of Harold, appear to have scarcely known any other than what was suggested by the coarse woollen attire of the country named *wadmel:* eight pieces of this description of cloth, each measuring six ells, constituted a mark; the extent, therefore, of each Shetland site of land bearing the appellation of MARK was originally determined by this rude standard of comparison, its exact limits being described by loose stones or shells, under the name of *mark-stones*, or *meithes*, many of which still remain undisturbed on the brown heaths of the country. The Shetland mark of land presents every variety of magnitude, indicating at the same time that allotments of land were rendered uniform in value by a much greater extent of surface being given to the delineation of a *mark* of indifferent land than to soil of a good quality." Subsequently, on the introduction of metals as a standard for value, the mark of land was seldom thought of in reference to the *wadmel* or cloth, but the equivalent for it, or the *mark-weight* of metal, was divided

into eight parts, called *eures*, or *ounces*, like those of the mark of wadmel, and hence we find such subdivisions of the ground as *eurelands* or *ouncelands*.

Before the reign of Harold, Scandinavian lands had been held unfettered by any tax or impost. The hardy Northman, after discovering that a soil could be so improved by labour as to afford to the cultivator a subsistence less precarious than that which depends upon the resources of fishing or hunting, could enclose a piece of ground around the cabin he had erected, to which he would affix some limited notions of property; and such enclosed land, though it had only a single cottage on it, was originally called a TOWN, the idea that this name includes a collection of buildings being a change of signification induced by feudal maxims and habits. Harold is supposed to have been the first monarch of Norway who oppressed his people by levying a tax or *scat* upon land. "But in whatever mode the tax might have been exacted in Norway, it appears that in the colony of Shetland, the *enclosures designed for cultivation* were ever considered as property that was sacred to the *free use* of the possessor: these were never violated by the intrusion of a collector of *scat*. Each mark of land bounded by *mark-stones*, or *meithes*, naturally contained very little soil fit for tillage. It was, therefore, from pastures, and from the produce of the flocks which grazed upon them, that the *scat* or contribution for the exigencies of the state of Norway was originally levied. The patch of ground which the possessor had enclosed being rendered exempt from every imposition to which grazing lands were liable, it is possible that the uncontrolled enjoyment of the soil destined for culture first suggested to the early colonists of Shetland, such a term as ODHAL, or UDAL, expressive, in the northern language, *of free property or possession;* whilst to pasture land, which was held by the payment of a scat or tax, the distinctive appellation was awarded of SCATTALD. Thus the Shetland mark of land originally included pasture or *scattald*, as well as enclosed cultivated ground, free from *scat*, and hence named *udal*. Accordingly, when a mark of land was transferred by sale or bequest from one individual to another, or was even let to a tenant, the proportion of *scattald* remaining after the patch of free arable ground had been separated from it, was always clearly expressed."*

* Hibbert's Shetland, p. 180.

10. Shetland, being by nature a separate province from the other divisions of territory belonging to the earldom of Orkney, had a separate civil governor appointed by the King of Denmark, as judge of all civil affairs; the country at the same time acquiring the name of a *Foudrie*, and being subdivided into several districts, each of which was under the direction of an inferior *foude*, or magistrate, whose power extended little beyond the preservation of the peace and good neighbourhood. The lesser foude was assisted in the execution of his office by ten or twelve active officers, called *rancilmen*, and by a *lawrightman*, who was entrusted with the regulation of weights and measures. Cases of importance were, at stated periods, tried by the GRAND FOUDE; and at an annual court—at which all the native proprietors or udallers were obliged to attend—new legislative measures were enacted, appeals were heard against the decisions of the subordinate foudes; and causes involving the life or death of an accused person were determined by the voice of the people. Such is an outline of the free and simple polity of the ancient Shetlanders, and which partook so little of feudalism, that the Earl of Orkney was regarded as possessing no legal civil authority whatever, nor any way entitled to interfere with the national laws, rights, and privileges of the udallers. He was only the military protector of the islands, who, on an invasion of the coasts, or when any foreign enterprise was contemplated, had merely to unfurl the Black Banner of the Raven, to ensure the repairing of a crowd of eager warriors to his standard. The extensive possessions and wealth of the Earl no doubt secured him power, and often control, over the national councils, but such influence was ever considered as illegal. Even when soldiers were required to be raised, a popular convocation was held, when the levy was made up, by their fixing the number of men which each village or town could conveniently furnish.

Our limits prevent our following up the details of the law of the udal succession to lands which prevailed in Shetland while it remained under the crown of Norway, all the features of which differ remarkably from the feudal maxims which regulated the transmission of property in Scotland.

Northern antiquaries have bestowed much attention on this interesting topic, and it has been most completely and successfully elucidated by Dr. Hibbert in his admirable work on Shet-

land, and in several papers in the Transactions of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries, to which we must refer our readers. We may shortly remark, however, that, by this law, which is ascribed to King Olaus, the *arable* ground, which, having been separated by enclosure from the *scattald*, was the free property of the cultivator, went to all the children of the proprietor, male and female, in equal shares; and, in order to obviate any evasion of this rule of inheritance, no one could dispose of an estate without the public consent of his heirs. Even the property of the Earls of Orkney was often portioned out in nearly equal shares among descendants, and the kingdom of Harold Harfager himself was divided among male successors in nearly equal proportions.

11. On the accession of the Zetland Islands to the Scottish crown, these principles of law were gradually encroached upon, and most of the grievances of the people, for centuries afterwards, were founded on the barbarous and oppressive endeavours of the Scottish earls to introduce feudal subjection and seigniorage, in place of the ancient udal tenures. Our article on Orkney contains a Sketch of the farther encroachments of the Scottish monarchs, and their minions, on the liberties of these poor islanders, to which we refer.

12. The transition from the freedom enjoyed by the islanders under their native sovereigns and earls, to the feudal thraldom imposed by the Scottish government, was consummated in the reign of Queen Mary, who, in the year 1565, made an hereditary grant of the crown's patrimony, and of the superiority over the free tenants in the islands, to her *natural* brother, Lord Robert Stewart, the abbot of Holyrood, for an annual acknowledgment of £2006 : 13 : 4 Scots. With her usual caprice, this grant was afterwards revoked by Mary, for the purpose of erecting Orkney and Shetland into a dukedom for her favourite the Earl of Bothwell; but on his attainder, Lord Robert was immediately reinstated in the enjoyment of the crown lands, when he left to a superintendent the collection of the third of the popish benefices appointed by the reformed parliament of Scotland to be collected for the support of parochial ministers, and contented himself with the immense temporal influence which the estates of the crown and of the bishopric gave him, when subsisting under one undivided fee. An attempt was now made to bring the

free tenants of the crown under his power as a mesne lord, and, by issuing out new investitures to them, Lord Robert materially increased his revenue. "But the chief design of this tyrant," as stated by Dr. Hibbert, "was to wrest, by oppression and forfeiture, the udal lands from the hands of their possessors; to retain the poor natives who might be forced out of their tenements as vassals on his estates; and to entail upon them the feudal miseries of villain services. This he was enabled to accomplish by establishing a military government throughout the islands, which was intended to impede all avenues to judicial redress. His rapacity and oppression at length became so great, and the complaints of the natives so loud, that the Scottish government was obliged to interfere; and, after an investigation, Lord Robert was condemned to imprisonment in the Palace of Linlithgow, and the estates of Orkney and Shetland reverted, by his forfeiture, to the crown. He was thus, for three years, restrained from tyrannising over the islanders; but his interest at the Scottish court, where his crimes and follies were always forgiven, procured for him, in the year 1581, a reinstatement in his former possessions; and, to enable him to control the decrees of justice in the country courts with less chance of detection, he had the address to procure for himself the heritable appointment (by King James VI., in 1581) of JUSTICIAR, with power to convoke and adjourn the law-tings, to administer justice in his own person, and appoint the various officers of the court; to all which were added the hereditary titles of Earl of Orkney and Lord of Zetland. One of the most successful measures of Earl Robert for increasing his exactions from the poor Shetlanders was his afterwards effecting, by quibbling, and a technical interpretation of his new charters, the setting aside of the ancient *shynd-bill* or document by which land was conveyed to a purchaser. It was the recorded decree of a court, that all the heirs and claimants over a property consented to its transfer or sale; and when signed and sealed by the *foude*, it constituted the only legal title by which udal lands could be bequeathed to heirs, or disposed of by sale. The abolition of this excellent form must have greatly increased the dependence of the people on their feudal lord; and the new mode of investiture introduced by him, with all the burdens and casualties common in Scotland, must have materially augmented his revenues.

Earl Robert Stewart was succeeded, about the year 1595, by his son, Earl Patrick, a man more wicked and rapacious than his father; and who, at the time of his investiture, had wasted his original patrimony by riotous expenses, which he sought to redeem by fraud and violence. He compelled the poorest of the people by force to erect his Castle of Scalloway; and many wealthy Scandinavians were obliged to abandon their possessions and quit the country. At length the lamentations of the inhabitants pierced even the dull ears of the Scottish government, and Earl Patrick was summoned, by open proclamation, "to compear upon the 2d of March 1608, to answer to the complaints of the distressit people of Orkney." The charges were fully proved, principally by the humane bishop of the province, who had matured and preferred them; and, the earl being cast into ward, and afterwards beheaded, the government of Orkney and Shetland was for a time intrusted to Bishop Law. In the year 1612, the lands and earldom were annexed to the crown, and erected into a Stewartry; and Sir James Stewart got a grant of the islands in the quality of farmer-general. A court of stewartry was erected, the power of the bishop was restricted to the exercise of his jurisdiction as commissary; and causes were now tried in the halls of the Castles of Scalloway and Kirkwall; while the open spaces of the Scandinavian law-tings were again devoted to legislative convocations, at which a little parliament of udallers again began to meet, in order to replace, by a fresh code of pandects, the ancient law books which Earl Patrick had destroyed.

But the sufferings of the people had not yet come to an end. The tyrannical privilege first assumed by the late Earls of Orkney, of condemning lands on pretended feudal forfeitures, was perpetuated in various ways by the tacksmen of the crown revenues. The oppressions of Sir James Stewart, the new farmer, occasioned, in ten years afterwards, his recall. The crown estates were then let out to a number of court favourites, who felt little compunction in flagrantly abusing their trust; and the udallers were reduced, by their overwhelming authority, to the most dispirited state of humiliation.

In 1641, the rents of the bishopric, upon the establishment of a presbytery in the islands, were granted to the city of Edinburgh; and, two years afterwards, King Charles I., on the fic-

titious plea of a loan affirmed to have been made to him by the Earl of Morton, procured from parliament the confirmation of a grant, to his favourite, of the lands of the Earldom of Orkney and lordship of Shetland, subject to redemption by payment of £30,000 sterling. Soon after this contract the Earl of Morton died, and his son, on coming into possession of the islands, immediately endeavoured to sweep away every relic of the udal tenures, and especially of the *shynd-bill*, which he represented as an illegal infringement of his universal right of superiority over the lands of the province.

13. During the Commonwealth, Cromwell sent deputies into the islands, who committed great irregularities, particularly in the clandestine alteration of the weights and measures. Charles II. restored episcopacy, and commanded the rents of the church lands to be paid to the bishop. As the family of Morton was then in embarrassed circumstances, the possession of the crown lands was committed in trust for the family to George Viscount Grandison, who appointed Alexander Douglas of Spynie as factor to receive the crown rents of the islands, and to grant feu charters. Spynie's mission to Shetland is well remembered; for he was instructed to dispute the validity of all tenures which did not depend on confirmations from the crown; and as many of the recent settlers possessed only dispositions and sasines from the old udallers, which they expected would have been at least preferable to the despised *shynd-bill*, they were likewise compelled to make up new titles as vassals to the king. From this period, then, may be dated the complete subversion of the ancient laws of the country. The udallers now abandoned for ever the open space of the lawting, where, beneath no other canopy than the sky, their fathers had met to legislate for at least six centuries. They were henceforward required, as vassals of the crown, to give suit and presence at the courts held within some covered hall at Kirkwall and Scalloway.

The right of representation in parliament, bestowed on the people of Orkney,—for, till the late Reform Act, those of Shetland were denied the privilege of sharing in the election of a member of the British senate, and which right was necessarily exercised under the Scottish law regulating freehold qualifications,—likewise entailed on the former, in the most complete manner, all the forms of feudal conveyancings, and thus caused

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them farther to seek an alteration of the usages of their forefathers.

In the reign of Queen Anne, the Morton family acquired still larger and less qualified grants of the islands, and especially their vice-admiralty, and the right of patronage to all the churches; and, in 1742, the Earl of Morton obtained from parliament a discharge of the claim of reversion previously competent to the crown: but, in the year 1776, the earl found this property so troublesome to him, from the vexatious lawsuits in which it had involved him, that he sold his entire rights over Orkney and Shetland for the sum of £60,000 to Sir Lawrence Dundas. The Earl of Zetland, whose father, Lord Dundas (lately deceased), obtained this title, is now lord-lieutenant of the Stewartry. The islands pay their proportion of the land-tax, and in every other respect have become subject to British laws, their internal administration being committed to the sheriffs and justices of peace.

14. The preceding historical details have been rendered necessary by our desire to make tourists fully acquainted with the associations of the people among whom they have to sojourn, before mixing with them, and to avoid repetition and lengthened explanations in the subsequent parts of our Itinerary. Landing, then, on the mainland, and securing one of the first of the little black or brownish barrel-bellied broad-backed ponies he meets with, we would advise the tourist, after taking a peep of the fine corn lands about Dunrossness and Quendal, to hasten on over the bleak mountain ridge of the Cliff Hills, which are too often muffled up in wet and exhaled mists, to Lerwick, visiting on his way the Scandinavian burgh of Mousa,* and the

* The Burgh of Mousa is, perhaps, the most perfect Teutonic fortress now extant in Europe. It occupies a circular site of ground, about 50 feet in diameter, and is built of middle-sized schistoze stones, well laid together without any cement. The round edifice attains the height of 42 feet, bulging out below and tapering off towards the top, where it is again cast out from its lesser diameter, so as to prevent its being scaled from without. The doorway is so low and narrow as only to admit one person at a time, and who has to creep along a passage 15 feet deep ere he attains the interior open area. He then perceives that the structure is hollow, consisting of two walls, each about five feet thick, with a passage or winding staircase between them of similar size, and enclosing within an open court about 20 feet in diameter. Near the top of the building, and opposite the entrance, three or four vertical rows of holes are seen, resembling the holes of a pigeon-house, and varying from eight to eighteen in number. These admitted air and a feeble degree of light to the chambers or galleries within, which wound round the building, and to which the passage from the entrance conducts, the roof of one chamber being the floor of that above it. In this structure, it is on record that the ancient inhabitants, on the occasion of sudden invasion, hastily secured their women and children and goods; and it would appear that even one of the Earls of Orkney was not able to force it. Such burghs seldom yielded except to stratagem

modern Castle of Scalloway. For several miles before him, as he scampers on, the traveller will perceive the sea-coast broken into creeks, islets, and sea holms, and long lines of ragged rocks; and around him, misty hills and heaths without a shrub, but relieved occasionally by groups of cottages, and winding stone dykes, intended to protect from the invasions of cattle a few patches of greenish corn land.

15. Scalloway Bay, with the numerous cottages, of a better description than common, arranged round its fine semicircular harbour, is exceedingly picturesque. Towering above the village is the castellated mansion of Earl Patrick, erected in the year 1600, with the building of which a most flagrant exercise of oppression is still remembered by the poor Shetlanders. Under the penalty of the forfeiture of property, a tax was wantonly laid by the Earl on each parish, obliging the inhabitants to find as many men as were requisite, as well as provisions for the workmen, who were kept to their tasks by military force. The castle is a square formal structure, now reduced to a mere shell, composed of freestone brought from Orkney, and of the fashion of most of the castellated mansions of the same date in Scotland; it is three storeys high, the windows being of a very ample size, with a small handsome round turret at the top of each angle of the building. Entering by an insignificant doorway, over which are the remains of a Latin inscription, we pass by an excellent kitchen and vaulted cellars, while a broad flight of steps leads above to a spacious hall; the other chambers, however, being of a small size.

North from Scalloway the tourist should visit the beautiful green valley of Tingwall, contained between the Cliff Hills on the east, and a less steep parallel ridge on the west. He will first meet a large stone of memorial, and in a small holm at the top of the adjoining loch he will be shewn the seat where the chief foude, or magistrate, of Shetland was wont to issue out his decrees—a communication having been made to it from the shore by means of large stepping-stones. The foude, his raadmen or counsellors, the recorder, witnesses, and other members of the court, occupied the inner area of the holm, their faces being turned towards the east, while the people stood on the

or famine; and being the places of defence round which the huts of the neighbourhood naturally arranged themselves, their name came latterly to designate the town or burgh which arose about them.

outside of the sacred ring and along the shores of the loch. When, in criminal cases, the accused was condemned by this court, he had the right of appeal to the people at large; and if they opened a way for him to escape from the holm, and he was enabled, without being apprehended, to touch the round steeple of the adjoining ancient church of Tingwall, the sentence of death was revoked, and the condemned obtained an indemnity.

16. A paved road, cut across a thick bed of peat moss, leads from the fertile vale of Tingwall to Lerwick, distant about four miles; and, as the traveller approaches the town, he will likely be regaled with a splendid view of the Sound of Bressay, burdened with vessels of all sizes, among which stately king's ships may be majestically gliding, and backed by the fine symmetrical conoidal hill which occupies the whole of the island of Bressay, and by the distant cliffs of Noss. Ranged along the shore are a number of white houses, of from two to three storeys in height, roofed with a blue rough sandstone slate, but disposed with the utmost irregularity, and an utter disregard of every convenience, except that of being as near as possible to the sea and its landing-places. Such is Lerwick, the capital of Shetland, which seems to have been originally erected in the beginning of the seventeenth century, in connexion with the Dutch fishermen, whose busses, to the number of not less than 2000, annually crowded on the approach of the fishing season into Bressay Sound. Nor were the subsequent attempts of builders to form a street or double row of houses more successful in introducing ideas of mutual accommodation, in order to obtain equality of breadth and straightness of direction. The sturdy Shetlander was not to be so dispossessed of his ground; and, accordingly, some taller houses may be seen to advance proudly into the road, taking precedence of the contiguous range, while in some places lesser dwellings claim the privilege of encroachment, as of equal importance. The salient and re-entering angles of fortification may thus be studied in Lerwick; or, in the more peaceful thoughts of Gray's description of Kendal, we may say—"They seem as if they had been dancing a country dance, and were out. There they stand, back to back, corner to corner, some up hill, some down." Like part of Stromness in Orkney, the Lerwick street is laid with flags, which are seldom pressed by heavier beasts of bur-

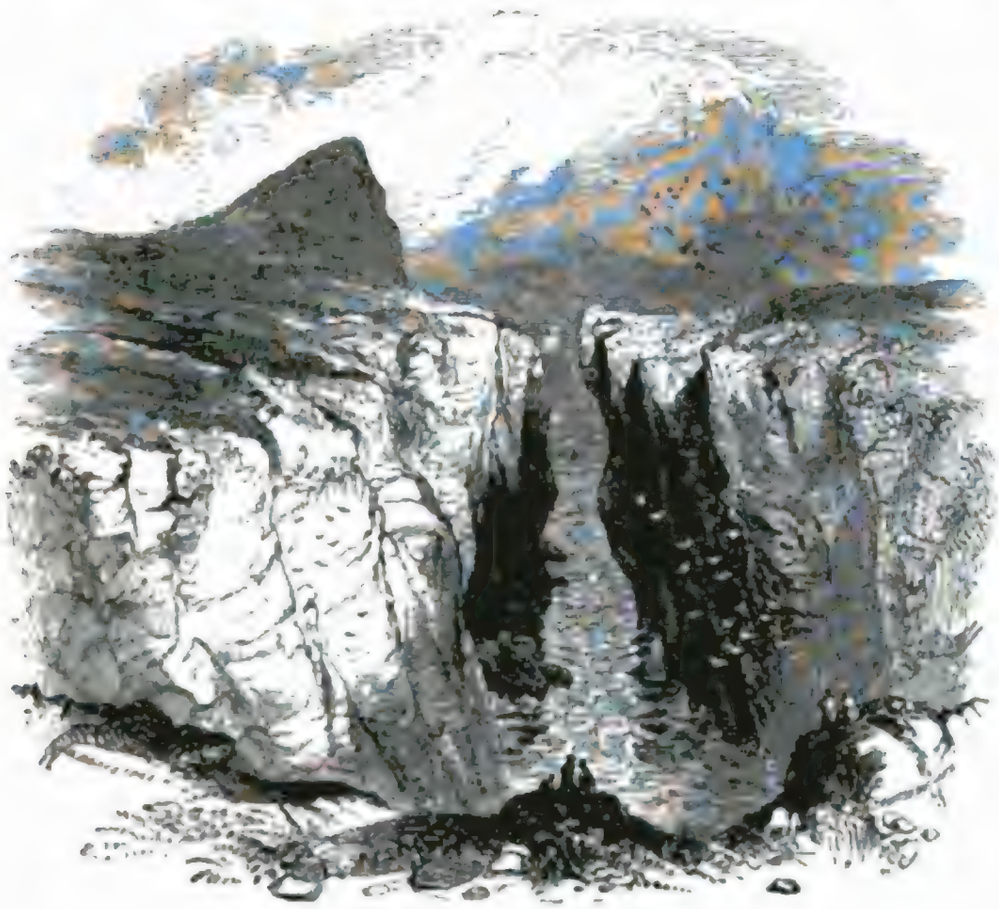
den than the little shelties from the neighbouring scatholds, loaded with cazies of turf; and no cart ever rattles over their surface. The number of shops in the town, and the groups of sailors of all nations engaged in their small purchases, gives it an unusually lively appearance. It boasts no kind of manufactory except one for straw-plait, and Shetland hose and other woollen stuffs, which are daily becoming more and more valuable, and no public buildings except one, which serves as a town-house, court of justice, masonic lodge, and prison, to which may be added the parish kirk, and dissenting meeting-house. Provisions are here abundant, and about one-half their price in Scotland; and the great boast of the inhabitants of Lerwick is its vegetables, and especially its esculent roots and artichokes. The number of inhabitants is greatly increasing: by the census of 1821, the parish contained 2224 individuals; and by the census of 1841, 3284. In 1701, when the adjoining Sound was frequented by Dutch vessels, from 200 to 300 families resided in Lerwick; but, in 1778, Mr. Low remarked that the town then only contained 140 families. The printed reports of the Government census of 1841, state the gross population of the Orkney and Shetland Isles to be together 60,007, without discriminating between the two groups; and the increase to be three per cent. within the previous ten years. Dr. L. Edmonston, writing in 1840 for the New Statistical Account, believed the population to be decreasing, owing to the disasters of the recent seasons, and the departure from the country of the young and able-bodied men. The proportion of females to males he reckons to be as *two* to *one*; but he thinks that, under judicious management, the Shetland Isles could probably maintain three times the present number of inhabitants, which a few years ago, he states, amounted to 31,000.

To the south of the town stands the citadel, named after the queen-consort of George III., Fort-Charlotte. It is believed to have been originally constructed during Oliver Cromwell's time, and rebuilt by Charles II. in 1665; but, being burnt and rendered defenceless in the year 1673 by a Dutch frigate, it was utterly neglected, till remodelled in 1781, and mounted with twelve guns, for the protection of the town from attacks by sea.

The habits of the higher classes in Lerwick differ but little from those of the generality of Scottish towns. Like the more

wealthy inhabitants of the adjoining country and of Orkney, they receive part of their education in Aberdeen or Edinburgh, or in England; returning with much-to-be-admired contentment to their native solitudes, to which they are uniformly observed to have the strongest attachment. Strangers have always spoken in the highest terms of the urbanity of the people of Lerwick, and sailors are wont to descant with rapture on the hours they have spent in its hospitable harbour. When Dr. Hibbert visited Lerwick, there was but one inn in the place, where he met with much civility and attention.

17. From Lerwick the tourist should cross over to Bressay, and thence to the island of Noss, to see the famous wooden trough or cradle, suspended by ropes, communicating with the Holm of Noss. It is sufficient for the conveyance across of one man and a sheep at a time. The Holm, which is only 500 feet



Cradle of Noss.

in length and 170 broad, rises abruptly from the sea in the form of a perpendicular cliff, 160 feet in height, the elevation at which the cradle hangs over the boiling surge in the channel below. The temptation of getting access to the numberless eggs

and young of the sea-fowl which whiten the surface of the Holm, joined to the promised reward of a cow, induced a hardy and adventurous fowler, about two centuries ago, to scale the cliff of the Holm, and establish a connexion by ropes with the neighbouring main island. Having driven two stakes into the rock, and fastened his ropes, the desperate man was entreated to avail himself of the communication thus established in returning across the gulf; but this he refused to do, and, in attempting to descend the way he had climbed, he fell, and perished by his fool-hardiness. We will not spoil the interest the tourist will feel in ascertaining on the spot the method whereby the communication was afterwards completed, and the cradle lowered down on its cordage for the transport of the little stock of sheep which now tenant the Holm, by describing the process.

Proceeding northward along the coast of the mainland to the capacious Bay of Cat Firth, which is closed in on the farther side by the promontory of Eswick, the traveller should next visit the valley of Burgh, with the remains of the old house and chapel of the Barons of Burgh—a Scottish family of the name of Sinclair, who were established here in 1587 by King James VI., on the express condition that they should not hold their lands according to the law of *udal succession*, but by feudal tenure, as observed in Scotland; and which family, during the seventeenth century, maintained here an establishment of a degree of splendour previously unknown in Shetland.

Passing on to the house of Nesting—which is noted as the spot where the Parson of Orphir in Orkney, a creature of Earl Patrick Stewart, who had ministered greatly to his avarice, was pursued by four brothers, who here slew him, and of one of whom it is recorded, that, tearing open the dying man's breast, he drank of his heart's blood—we reach the barren shores of Vidlin Voe, and the house of Lunna, from the neighbourhood of which a long promontory stretches out for several miles into Yell Sound. Lunna is a great fishing station—much ling, cod, and torsk or tusk (*Gadus Brosme*) being cured at it.

18. If the tourist has time, he should hence cross to the island of Whalsey, in which he will see a system of farming practised that would not do discredit to the Lothians, and the appearance of which is highly encouraging to every philanthropic mind; and if he desires to witness the deep-sea fishing

for ling, with its full equipment of sheds for drying, agents' houses, and temporary huts for the boatmen, and all the bustle and activity of those who are obliged to catch the few calm days of summer in seeking their bread upon the waters, he will from Whalsey sail over to the little cluster of islands called the Outskerries, where this fishing is pursued on a large scale.

19. Fetlar, an island from five miles to six miles and a half long and five miles broad, notwithstanding the fertility of its valleys and the number of its ancient law-tings, and its steep cliffs at Lamboga being the resort of the peregrine falcon, has little to recommend it to the tourist, unless he be a geologist. Its southern shores consist of a ridge of gneiss, succeeded, between Urie and the Bay of Tresta, by a broad belt of alternating beds of serpentine, diallage rock, micaceous schist, and chlorite schist, to the north of which rises the high serpentine vord or Wardhill of Fetlar, which is in like manner flanked on the farther side with a similar succession of rocky beds intermixed with talcose schist, and exhibiting occasionally a conglomerate structure. From Fetlar to the handsome seat of Belmont (Thos. Mouat, Esq.) in Unst, the distance is about six miles, being across a channel diversified with several sea-holms. Guarded by the tumultuous rousts and tides in Blomel and Uyea sounds, and on the north of Scaw, Unst presents but few interesting external features, except its sea-coast precipices, above which its bleak yellowish serpentine hills rise with a most forbidding and dreary aspect. Uyea island is, however, the great resort of shipping in pursuit of the deep-sea fishing, which also rendezvous here for the supply of goods to the several fishing stations in the neighbouring isles; and Buness, the residence of T. Edmonston, Esq., near the head of Balta Sound, on the eastern coast, will long be celebrated as having been the site where the French philosopher Biot, and his successor Captain Kater, in the years 1817-18, carried on their experiments for the purpose of determining, in this high latitude, the variation in the length of the second's pendulum. The island also abounds in stone circles and barrows; and at Cruciefield the great juridical assemblies of Shetland were anciently held, previous to their removal to the Vale of Tingwall, on the mainland.

But the great treasure of Unst is its chromate of iron, a mineral which of late years has become an object of commercial

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importance, on account of the use to which it has been converted, in affording the means for procuring a yellow pigment for the use of the arts, and its application to the dyeing of silk, woollen, linen, and cotton. It was formerly obtained, at a high price, chiefly from America; but Dr. Hibbert, in the year 1817, discovered it strewed in great loose masses on the surface of the hill of Cruciefield, at Hagdale, and Buness, and in several other places in the vicinity of Balta Sound in Unst, and succeeded in satisfying the proprietors of its value. It was first seen in insulated granular pieces left loose on the surface from the disintegration of the rocks of serpentine which enclosed it; but it was soon traced out as disseminated in thin ramifying veins from two to six inches in breadth, and ultimately in beds of much greater magnitude. The ingredients of the serpentine rock are silex, magnesian earth, alumen, oxidulated iron, and chromate of iron; the two latter also being found in grains as minute as gunpowder, and therefore appearing as component parts of the rock, as well as in detached masses and veins. Associated with these occur potstone and indurated talc, with beautiful specimens of amianthus and common asbestus; and at Swinaness, a headland at the northern entrance of Balta Sound, Dr. Hibbert also discovered a very rare pure white and transparent mineral, the native *hydrate of magnesia*, which, on analysis, presents 69·75 parts of pure magnesia, and 30·25 of water, in 100 parts.

Besides the other kinds of sea-fowl with which this island abounds, the hill of Saxaford, on the north-east side, which is estimated at a height of 600 feet, and which is composed of micaceous and talcose slate, is noted as the occasional resort of the rare skua gull (*Cataractes vulgaris*) which breeds also in Foula, and on Rona Hill, in the mainland.

20. Yell is a dull uninteresting island, six miles broad by about twenty miles long, wholly composed of long parallel ridges of gneiss rocks, of a heavy uniform course from south-west to north-east, and sloping gradually towards the shore. It is, however, an excellent fishing station; and, from the days of George Buchanan, has been noted for its booths, or small warerooms, filled with all sorts of vendible articles, now chiefly imported from Scotland, but anciently from Hamburgh and Bremen. In the troubled sea of Yell Sound, and the vicinity of its little holms or islets, distinguished for their fine

succulent pastures, and as the breeding-places of the tern, parasitic gull, and eider duck, herring shoals and swarms of young sillocks are always to be seen; and perhaps the tourist may witness the pursuit and capture of a drove of *ca'ing whales*, as the *Delphinus deductor* is styled in Shetland, which occasionally appear off these coasts in a gregarious assemblage of from 100 to 500 at a time. Their seizure is always attended with great excitement and cruelty; and, although the blubber affords a rich prize to the captors, nothing can better display the debased state of the husbandry in some of these north isles, than the fact that the carcases of the whales are in general allowed to remain untouched, tainting the air until they are completely devoured by the gulls and crows.*

Yell boasts of no less than eight ancient circular burghs; and, at one time, of twenty chapels or religious houses, although they are almost all completely in ruins. All the ecclesiastical buildings of Hialtland appear to have been devoid of the least show of ornament; for the pointed arch, pinnacled buttress, or the rich stone canopy, never dignified any of them. A tall, rude tower was their only, and that but an occasional, appendage: but, from their great number, they would appear often to be not so much parish churches as the private oratories of the independent udallers, or the free-will offerings of foreign seamen, erected in fulfilment of their vows to Our Lady, St. Olla, St. Magnus, St. John, or some of the other saints of the calendar, whose intercession was believed to have saved them from shipwreck. Crossing from this island to the central districts of the mainland, the tourist will find but little to reward his toil, if he attempt to thread his way among their endless swamps, firths, and uninteresting tame hills, composed chiefly of gneiss, with a few interstratified beds of limestone, the latter of which however, where they occur, bestowing a superior verdure and richness on the pastures. A few gentlemen's seats, some of them, as at Busta, having walled gardens, and, for the climate, rather large-sized trees, though no bigger than bushes, may be seen: but in general the country is tenanted chiefly by flocks of the little wild yet fine-fleeced sheep, for which Shetland is famed, with here and there a few patches of corn land, tilled by the ancient Scandinavian single-stilted plough, the produce of which

* We understand that the carcases are now in some instances better estimated, and that the bones are purchased for exportation as bone manure.

is ground into meal by the no less primitive simply-constructed water-mill peculiar to the country, or the still more antique hand-mill or quern. The richer pastures of the sea holms, which, by strict laws, were wont to be preserved from being encroached on by the passing stranger, always exhibit a more

A Zetland Mill.

lively green than the adjoining hills; and the bold granitic shores, crowned with the remains of ancient burghs or round towers, (like that of Cullswick, on the south-western coast), would, but for their continued recurrence under similar forms, be considered grand and imposing. Around the more lofty and inaccessible headlands, the voyager may yet descry solitary couples of the royal hawks, which can bear no other birds, even of their own species, to occupy the same cliff with them, hovering over their young; and he may be told that old acts of parliament specially reserved them, from all ordinary grants, for his majesty's use, according to ancient custom. The goshawk, or *Falco palumbarius*, was the object in general of the falconer's search; but the bird held in chief estimation was the *Falco perigrinus niger*, of which a single pair is believed to have always bred in Fair Isle, and others in Foula, Lamboga, Fitfiel, and Sumburgh Head.

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21. To the naturalist, view-hunter, and commercial gentleman, studious of knowing the arcana of the *Haaf*, or deep-sea fishing, the north-western portions of the Mainland, consisting of the parishes of Aithsting, Walls, Sandness, and North Mavine, present many objects deserving of a visit. At Aithness, Soulam Voe, Stennis, Hillswick, Feideland, Vementry Island, and many other places, the cod, ling, and tusk fisheries have been pursued for a very long period; and in ancient times, from the 1st of May to the 1st of August, vessels freighted with goods for exchange of fish, were constantly arriving from Hamburgh, Lubeck, Bremen, and Denmark, and latterly from Scotland and England. In our introductory paper to this work (p. 14) we have given a short sketch of the Dutch fisheries in Shetland, to which we refer; and our limits permit us only to add, that the foreign merchants, on landing, always found booths ready for their use, or they were permitted to erect shops for the display of their wares, for the ground-rent of which they paid the native proprietors at a most exorbitant rate. Besides hooks, lines, nets, and various kinds of grain and fruits, cloths, linens, and muslins, were the articles tendered to the fishermen, who bartered for them their fish, both in a wet state, and, under the name of stock-fish, such as were dried in their stone buildings, called *skoes*, to which also they added stockings, wadmel, horses, cows, sheep, seal-skins, otter-skins, with butter, and oil extracted from the livers of fish.

The men employed at the *haaf*, or the fishing station most distant from the land, are generally the young and hardiest of the islanders. Six tenants join in manning a boat, their landlords importing for them frames, ready modelled and cut out in Norway, which, when put together, form a yawl of six oars, from eighteen to nineteen feet in keel, and six in beam; and which is also furnished with a square sail. After waiting for a fair wind, or the ceasing of a storm, the most adventurous boatmen give the example to their comrades, starting off in their yawl, and taking the first turn round in the course of the sun, when they are instantly followed by the whole fleet, each boat of which strives to be first at the fishing station, often forty or fifty miles away. Arrived at the ground, they prepare to set their *tows*, or lines, provided with ling hooks. Forty-five or fifty fathoms of *tows* constitute a *bught*, and each bught is fitted with from nine to fourteen hooks. Twenty *bughts* are called a

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packie, and the whole of the *packies* a boat carries is a fleet of *tows*. The fleets belonging to the Feideland haaf are so large as seldom to be built with less than 1200 hooks, provided with three buoys, and extending to a distance of from 5000 to 6000 fathoms. The depth to which the ling are fished for varies from fifty to one hundred fathoms; and after the lines are all set, which, in moderate weather, requires from three to four hours, the fishermen rest for two hours, and take their scanty sustenance: their poverty, however, allowing them no richer food than a little oatmeal and a few gallons of water; for the Shetlanders can rarely supply themselves with spirits.

At length one man, by means of the buoy rope, undertakes to haul up the tows; another extricates the fish from the hooks, and throws them in a place near the stern, named the shot; a third guts them, and deposits their livers and heads in the middle of the boat. Along with the ling, a much smaller quantity of tusk, skate, and halibut are caught, the two last being reserved for the tables of the fishermen; and six or seven score of fish are reckoned a decent haul, fifteen or sixteen a very good one, and when above this quantity the garbage, heads, and small fish are thrown overboard, the boat, notwithstanding, being then sunk so far as just to *lipper* with the water. If the weather be moderate, a crew is not detained longer than a day and a half at the haaf; but as gales too often come on, and as the men are reluctant to cut their lines, the most dreadful consequences ensue, and many of the poor fishermen never reach land. On their return to shore, the boatmen are first engaged in spreading out their *tows* to dry; then some of them catch piltocks with a rod and line, or procure other kinds of bait, at a distance from the shore; while others, again, mend the tows and cook victuals for the next voyage to the haaf: thus, in the busy fishing season, so incessant and varied are the demands on the fishermen's time, that they rarely can snatch above two or three hours in the twenty-four for repose. Their huts are constructed of rude stones without any cement, covered with thin pieces of wood and turf for a roof, and the dormitories consist only of a little straw thrown into a corner on the bare floor, where a whole boat's crew may be found stealing a brief rest from their laborious occupations.

22. Feideland, the most northerly of these great fishing stations, is a long narrow peninsula, jutting far out into the

ocean, distinguished, as is every place having the same Scandinavian name, by its superior green pastures: everywhere about it the coast is awfully wild; and the peninsula, broken on each side into steep precipices, exhibits now and then a gaping chasm, through which the sea struggles, while numerous stacks rise from the surface of a turbulent ocean, the waves beating around them in angry and tumultuous roar.

23. Sailing westward by Uyea Island to Roeness Voe, the stranger will obtain a complete view of the vast impending cliffs of granite, cut into numerous caves and arches open to the Atlantic, that form the farther coast of North Mavine. Above these rises the red barren scalp of Roeness Hill to a height of 1447 feet, which, though steep, abounds with alpine plants, and from the circular watch-tower on its summit commands a most extensive and *instructive* view, from the peaks of Foula to the broad bay of St. Magnus and the hills of Unst. In the district near at hand there is a chain of deep circular lakes, which, when the sun shines bright, reflect on their bosom every one of the rugged and dreary crags by which they are surrounded; sky, rocks, and heath limiting the horizon on all sides; no marks of man's labour appearing, but tranquillity pervading the scene, except where the stranger, gaining the summit of a sea cliff, beholds suddenly the tumbling billows of the ocean, and thousands of insulated rocks whitened with innumerable flocks of sea-fowl, and hollowed out at their base into caverns, the secure retreats of otters and seals.

At Doreholm, a spacious arch of seventy feet, and the Isle of Stennis, a great fishing-station belonging to Messrs. Cheyne, which are exposed to the unbroken fury of the Atlantic, enormous masses of rock have been bodily heaved up, and removed to considerable distances by the waves, while, on the summit of the cliffs in that neighbourhood, especially at the Villians of Ure, the tired feet of the traveller will be unexpectedly refreshed with a walk on the finest and softest sward, to which the compliment, often paid to some rich vale of England, may well apply—"Fairies joy in its soil." It is the favourite promenade of the inhabitants, especially on the fine summer evenings; nor is this pleasing bank, on which numerous sheep are continually feeding, the less interesting from being encircled with the harsher features which Hialtland usually wears, and perched on the top of naked, red, precipitous crags, on which a rolling sea is always breaking.

24. Though troubled is the channel which separates Papa Stour, the southernmost islet and promontory of St. Magnus Bay, from the mainland, the tourist, if possible, should not omit paying a visit to its grand porphyritic *stacks*, and magnificent underground rocky excavations which the inhabitants visit at certain seasons armed with thick clubs, and well provided with candles, in search of the seals which breed in them. When attacked with these weapons, the poor animals boldly advance in defence of their young, and often wrench with their feet and teeth the clubs out of their enemies' hands ; but in vain : escape is denied, and these gloomy recesses are stained with blood, and numbers of dead victims are carried off in boats.

Papa Stour, like Iona and some others of the Hebrides, was the resort, in the earliest period of Christianity, of certain Irish priests or *papæ*, who fled here either for refuge from some commotion in their own country, or came over to proclaim to the heathen the glad tidings of the Gospel of God's grace. In Shetland, three islands bear the name of Papa, Papa Stour being the largest ; and this island is the only part of the country where the ancient Norwegian amusement of the *sword-dance* has been preserved, and where it still continues to beguile the tediousness of a long winter's evening. We have no room for a description of it, and must refer our readers to Sir Walter Scott's " Pirate," and Dr. Hibbert's minute account.

25. The bold island of Fughloe (Foula) or Fowl Island, is the last we have room to notice in this sketch. It presents the appearance, when viewed from the sea, of five conical hills rising from the waters at the distance of eight leagues west of the mainland, and towering into the sky. They are all composed of sandstone, set on a primitive basement ; and the highest, called the Kaim, is estimated as of an elevation of 1300 feet.

There is now little doubt that this island is the Thule descried by Agricola from Orkney, from the north-western parts of which it is often visible. It was one of the last places in which the pure Norse language was spoken ; in general, the parish schoolmaster officiates as a sort of pastor to the inhabitants, except when the minister of Waes visits them, once a-year, for the purpose of celebrating the communion.

" The low lands remote from the sea," says Dr. Hibbert, " are frequented by parasitic gulls, which build among the

heather. The surface of the hills swarms also with plovers, Royston crows, seapies, and curlews. On reaching the highest ridges of the rocks, the prospect presented on every side is of the sublimest description. The spectator looks down from a perpendicular height of 1100 or 1200 feet, and sees below, the wide Atlantic roll its tide. Dense columns of birds hover through the air, consisting of maws, kittywakes, lyres, sea-parrots or guillemots; the cormorants occupy the lowest portions of the cliffs, the kittywakes whiten the ledges of one distinct cliff, gulls are found on another, and lyres on a third. The welkin is darkened with their flight; nor is the sea less covered with them, as they search the waters in quest of food. But when the winter appears, the colony is fled, and the rude harmony produced by their various screams is succeeded by a desert stillness. From the brink of this awful precipice the adventurous fowler is, by means of a rope tied round his body, let down many fathoms; he then lands on the ledges where the various sea-birds nestle, being still as regardless as his ancestors of the destruction that awaits the falling of some loose stones from a crag, or the untwisting of a cord. It was formerly said of the Foula man, 'his *gutcher* (grandfather) *guid before*, his father guid before, and he must expect to go over the Sneug too.'"

One of the highest rocks is occupied by the bonxie or skua gull, the terror of the feathered race; but he is so noble-minded as to prefer waging war with birds larger than himself: even the eagle forbearing to attack lambs in the skua's presence.

Natural History of the Zetland Islands.

26. The natural history of these islands so greatly resembles that of Orkney, that, after the full details we have given of the latter, it would be less necessary for us to enter minutely on that of the former groups, even had we room to do so. The plants of Shetland differ less from those of the north of Scotland and Orkney in the number of new species, than in the more limited vegetation, and the absence of species elsewhere abundant, especially of the ligneous and larger herbaceous tribes; while they no doubt, on the other hand, exhibit many approaches to an identity with the Arctic Floras of Spitzbergen and Greenland. Similar remarks apply to the zoology of these islands. We have not yet been enabled to institute a proper comparison, with any degree of correctness, between the plants of Shetland and those of Great Britain in general; and we regret not having it in our power, as yet, to present our readers with the results of a careful examination of the effects which the high latitude and ex-

posed situation of these islands have produced on the size and geographical distribution of their vegetables.*

But to the geologist we can say, that if Scotland in general be the best nursery for the British botanist, Shetland, undoubtedly, presents the most varied and best exposed field for tracing the relations of rocks to one another, and acquiring enlarged and correct apprehensions of the forms under which they were originally consolidated, as well as the subsequent changes they have in many instances undergone. The variety of the rocky materials of these islands is indeed great; and the deep indentations of the sea, and the extensive ranges of precipices all round the coasts, enable the explorer to obtain easy and satisfactory access to them; while the narrowness of their rocky zones, and the prolonged courses of some of the beds along the headlands and islets, extending out into the contiguous ocean, leave us at no loss to conclude that the whole group are but the wrecks or small remaining portions of a high ridge or breastwork of stone, which may have originally extended not only to the adjoining mainland of Scotland, but also, in all probability, to the opposite continent.

In the preceding remarks we have noticed the positions of several particular rocks and minerals; and it now only remains for us to present our readers with a general sketch of the geology of the whole cluster of the Zetland Islands, such as they may find useful in directing them where to seek for specimens for scientific collections, or the examination of the country.

The central ridges of the south-eastern portion of the mainland, extending from Fitfiel Head to Hawksness, and composing the range of the Cliff Hills, consist chiefly of primitive clay slate (the phyllade of the French), with a few quartz and hornblende beds amongst it; but with the exception, however, of a small belt of land, stretching from Quendal Bay in a north-westerly direction to Spiggie (a district about five miles in length by one in breadth), which is formed of a sienite, denominated by Dr. Hibbert, from the prevalence of a mineral disseminated through it, *epidotic sienite*. To this clay slate deposit succeeds, on the eastern side of the island, a series of blue and redish sandstones, presenting a good deal of the aspect of hard unstratified quartz rock in their lower masses; but decidedly arenaceous and mechanical in their structure, and passing into coarse conglomerate in their upper beds. Their greatest breadth does not exceed two miles, and they extend along the coast from Sumburgh Head to Bressay Island, a distance of about twenty-two miles. In some of the sandstones, intermixed with magnesian earth, a few copper ores occur, which were at one time worked for the sake of the metal, but have since been neglected.

Adjoining the Cliff Hills on the west, a few beds of blue granular limestone stretch along the coast and across the mainland, by Scalloway and Tingwall, which are succeeded by a great deposit of gneiss rocks, composing the districts of Whiteness, Aithsting, and Delting; and which, crossing over to the island of Whalsey, forms the whole of it, with Mickle Skerry and the Outskerries, the whole of the island of Yell, the south-west side of Fetlar, the north-west corner of Unst, with the larger islands in the bay of Scalloway.

Fitfiel Head is formed of clay slate. At the adjoining headland of Garthsness, is mica slate, of which the peninsular tract of Eswick and

* In our introductory remarks on the resources of the Highlands, and in the preceding Itinerary, we have said enough, for such a work as this, on the fishes of the Shetland seas; and to these details we refer.

Glitness, (a site six miles long by two broad, lying to the north of Hawksness), and some of the rocks about Feideland, on the north point of the mainland, are also composed.

Roeness Hill and the greater part of the adjoining district of North Mavine consist of a hard red granite, flanked on the south-east by sienitic greenstone, both being closely united together by numerous veins and processes proceeding mutually from one another. If from the adjoining island of Papa Little, as an apex, two diverging lines be drawn, one in a direction S. 60° W. to the western coast of the parish of Sandness, a little north of the village of Dale, and the other S. 32° W. to the head of Bigsettervoe; and thence to the south-east promontory of Vailey Island, belonging to the parish of Sandsting, these lines will be found to enclose a large wedge-shaped deposit, the two sides of which are about thirteen miles long, and the greatest breadth about seven miles, consisting of primary blue quartz-rock, of a hard crystalline texture and homogeneous appearance; and which, instead of observing the usual bearing of the other rocks from S. by W. to N. by E., extends in a transverse direction from S. 60° E. to N. 60° W., from E. to W. and from S. 70° W. to N. 70° E. In some places the quartz-rock is of a red colour, establishing a transition into primary sandstone.

Between Vailey Island and Skelda Ness, the western promontory of Scalloway Bay, another wedge-shaped formation of granite is seen, which is separated from the great central gneiss rocks of the mainland by a small belt of rocks composed of epidotic sienite, similar to that of Dunrossness, and probably of the same age with it, as their former connexion with one another is established by means of the little islands of Oxna, Hildasay, and the Sandistura Rocks, which are all composed of the same sort of sienite.

We have already alluded to the serpentine rocks of Fetlar and Unst, which form the greater portion of these islands; and we may here add that they are associated with large masses of euphotide or diallage rock, a compound of felspar and hornblende, modified by the presence of magnesia, and which in several places assumes the characters of Labrador hornblende, of hyperstene, and of Schiller spar.

Lastly, the north-western cliffs of the parish of Sandness in the mainland, with the distant isle of Foula, are composed of sandstones similar to those on the south-eastern coast at Sumburgh; and on them, composing Papa Stour, and the outer peninsula of North Mavine, lying west of St. Magnus Bay, and Roeness Voe, we find great overlying masses of secondary porphyry, consisting of a basis of compact felspar, chiefly in the state of claystone; but presenting all the usual varieties of porphyritic, amygdaloidal, and conglomerate or tufaceous claystone.

ADDENDA AND ERRATA AS TO THE LEWS, SECT. VIII.

P. 660. *Footnote.*—The two principal inns in Stornoway are "The Lews" and "Commercial." In the interior of the Island there are as yet only two small inns, one at Callernish, on Loch Roag, and one at Dalbeg, half-way from Callernish to Barvas.

P. 650.—Mr. Matheson, we understand, is only a *second* son, and therefore not in his own person the head of the clan Matheson. In the 5th line from the bottom, for "isthmus," read "mountain range."

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P. 651.—For "ornamental plantations around," read "trees at."

P. 651.—Line 14 from top, for "hill," read "range."

P. 652.—Line 5 from bottom, for "Honourable," read "Right Honourable."

P. 653.—At line 18 from the bottom, after "building stances," add "in Stornoway."

P. 657.—In line 12 from bottom, after "Masonic Lodge," read "containing," &c.

P. 658.—Line 11 from top, delete the words "and completing."

P. 658.—A gentleman who visited Stornoway last summer, writes as follows:—"My impressions of Stornoway are favourable, which might have been occasioned partly perhaps by the fine weather. A cloudless sky and effulgent sun may deck barrenness itself with some attractions, but the dry and cleanly aspect of the town, the bustle at the quay and beach, the adjoining fields starting into verdure, the joyous lark carolling overhead, and the busy husbandman toiling underneath, imparted pleasing sensations, and foreboded a coming prosperity. Then there was the adamantine outline of the coast, with the islets and bays, over and amidst which towered the embattled castle, all combining to form a picture that I was unprepared for."

P. 658.—Lowest line, for "Colonsay," read "Carloway."

P. 659. *Footnote.*—Last line, for "average," say "extent of surface."

SECT. VI.

P. 505.—For the inscription at Duirness, read "Donald Mack Marshov."

APPENDIX.

DIRECTIONS FOR VISITING THE LOWLANDS OF SCOTLAND

WITH

DESCRIPTIVE NOTICES.

General Object of the Appendix; List of Guide-Books for the Lowlands, *footnote*, 1.

1. The Tweed; The Border Country; The Forest (Selkirk and Ettrick), and Clydesdale—General Features, 2.—Outline of Tour to these Districts, 3.—*Edinburgh to Melrose:* Dalkeith; Lasswade; Hawthornden and Roslin, *footnote*; Borthwick and Crichton Castles; Currie Wood; The Gala Water, 4.—Galashiels; Bridge-end; Darnick; Skirmish between Buccleuch and Angus, 5.—Melrose Abbey, 6.—General Character of the Tweed, 7.—Old Melrose; The Cowdenknowes; Earlstoun, 8.—Dryburgh; St. Boswell's; Littledean Tower; Smailholme Tower, 9.—Kelso and Abbey; Roxburgh Castle; Fleurs; Home Castle; Ednam—*Kelso to Berwick:* Flodden; Hollywell Haugh; Norham Castle; Halidon Hill; Berwick, *footnote*, 10.—*Kelso to Jedburgh:* Penielheugh; Vale of the Jed; Bonjedward; Jedburgh Abbey; Ferniehirst, 11.—*Jedburgh to Hawick:* Minto House; Monteviot; Denholm; Battle of Ancrum Moor, 12.—Hawick; Branxholm; Goldieland Tower; Harden Castle; The Cheviot Hills; Langholm; Gilnockie Tower; The Esk; Netherby Hall; Longtown; Liddesdale; Hermitage Castle—*Hawick to Melrose:* Mangerton Tower, *footnote*, 13.—*Melrose to Abbotsford and Selkirk:* Abbotsford, 14; Selkirk; Ettrick Forest; Philiphaugh; Oakwood Tower; Tushielaw; Thirlstane Castle; Ettrick Churchyard and Village, 15.—Moffat Wells—*Moffat to Selkirk, by Yarrow:* Loch Skene; The Grey Mare's Tail, 16.—The Covenanters; St. Mary's Loch; Henderland Tower; Dryhope Tower; The Yarrow; Altrive; Mount Benger; Blackhouse Tower; Upright Stones near Manse of Yarrow; Newark Castle; Sweet Bowhill; Carterhaugh, 17.—*Selkirk to Peebles:* Ashiestiel; Elibank Tower; Inverleithen; Traquair; Horsburgh Castle; Border Peels along the Tweed; Peebles, 18.—Peebles to Lanark; Nidpath Castle; Drummelzier; Biggar; Carnwath; Cowdaily Castle; Wilsontown Iron-Works; Edinburgh and Glas-

gow Forks of Caledonian Railway, 19.—Lanark; Falls of Clyde; Cartland Crags—*Lanark to Hamilton:* Craignethan Castle; Battle of Drumclog; Cadzow Castle; Wild Cattle, 20.—Hamilton Palace—*Hamilton to Glasgow:* Battle of Bothwell Brig; Bothwell Castle; Blantyre Priory; Rutherglen; Battle of Langside, 21.

II. EDINBURGH TO GLASGOW AND AYR, AND THE LAND OF BURNS, THE COASTS OF GALLOWAY AND DUMFRIES—Most Striking Points on Glasgow Railway Line; Viaduct over the Almond; Niddry Castle, 22.—Linlithgow Palace and Church, 23.—Falkirk; Diverging Railway Lines, 24.—Country from Glasgow to Ayr; Lochwinnoch and Kilbirnie Loch; Crookston Castle; Paisley; Elderslie; Branch to Kilmarnock; Kilwinning; Ardrossan; Eglintoun Castle, 25.—Ayr; Burns' Monument and Birthplace, and other Localities connected with his Name and Works, 26.—The Carrick Shore; Colzean and Turnberry Castles; Maybole Parish, 27.—*Coasts of Galloway:* Dundrennan Abbey; Balcarry Shore; Colvend; Sweetheart Abbey, 28.—*Dumfries:* Lincluden Abbey; Caerlaverock Castle; Lochmaben and Castle; Dumfriesshire, 29.

III. MAIN RAILWAY LINES THROUGH SCOTLAND.—(1.) *Berwick to Edinburgh:* General Features of the Country; Spots of Interest; Battles of Prestonpans and Pinkie; Conference at Carberry Hill, 30.—Dunbar and Castle, Church; Works on the Line; Holly Hedges at Tyningham; Coldingham Priory; Fast Castle, 31.—North Berwick; Tantallan Castle; The Bass Rock; Haddington; Abbey, 32.—(2.) *Caledonian Railway*, 33.—(3.) *The Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway*—Grange House; Kirkcaldy; Falkland Palace; Wilkie's Birth-Place, 34.—St. Andrews; Cathedral; Tower and Chapel of St. Regulus, 35.—*Perth Branch*—Lindores Abbey; Round Tower at Abernethy; Moncrieffe Hill, 36.—(4.) *The Scottish Central Railway*—General Course, &c. The adjoining Scenery of the Devon; Alva Glen; Dollar; Castle Campbell; The Caldron Linn; The Rumbling Bridge, and the Devil's Mill, 38.—Dunfermline; Malcolm's Tower; Abbey Church; Palace; Clackmannan and Alloa Towers, 39.—Bridge of Allan; Kippenross Sycamore Tree; Dunblane; Cathedral; Archbishop Leighton's Walk and Library; Battle of Sheriffmuir; Forteviot; Tunnel at Moncrieffe Hill, 40.—(5.) *The Perth and Dundee; Dundee and Arbroath; Scottish Midland Junction, and Arbroath and Forfar Railways:* Carse of Gowrie; Dundee; Glammis Castle; Arbroath; Abbey of Aberbrothock, 41.—(6.) *The Aberdeen Railway:* Montrose; Brechin; Church and Round Tower; Dunnotar Castle, 42.

1. WITH a view of supplying such information as we hope may suffice to enable the tourist to make his way to the more interesting portions of the Lowlands of Scotland, we have been induced to throw together a concise epitome of the routes most worthy of the stranger's attention, with brief sketches of the railway lines, without pretending to supersede reference to the more copious descriptions in the guide books, professedly of the whole of Scotland, or of the many serviceable local treatises, and the railway sheets which are now to be had at a small cost,* and without attempting to trace out all the lines of road through the south of Scotland, but leaving necessarily untouched, several, yet not many, objects of interest and places of importance.

* We may particularize Black's Tourist of Scotland, and Economical Tourist of Scotland; Black's Guides through Edinburgh and Glasgow; the Scottish Tourist's Abbotsford Tour; Falls of Clyde and Western Tour; and the Land of Burns' Tour; M'Phun's Scottish Land and Steam-boat Tourists' Guides; Jeffrey's Guide to the Border; Sylvan's Pictorial Hand-book to the Clyde and to Land of Burns; The Tourist's Companion through Stirling, &c.; Murray's Hand-books for River and Firth of Clyde, Clydesdale and Hamilton Palace, Arran and Ailsa Craig; Lizars' Guides to the Railways in sheets; Murray's Railway Record; and Bradshaw's Descriptive Guide to the Caledonian Railway.

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I. The Tweed, the Border Country, and Clydesdale.

	Miles	Miles
Edinburgh by Rail to Gallowshall Station	8	
Short Branch to Dalkeith.		
Gorebridge	4	12
Tynehead	4	16
Fountainhall	7	23
Stow	4	27
Galashiels	7	34
Melrose	3	37
St. Boswell's, Newton	4	41
Kelso	10	51
Coldstream from Kelso	9	
Berwick	14	
Hawick	20	71
Langholm from Hawick	23	
Longtown	9	
Jedburgh, about two miles off Hawick Road	63	
Melrose	16	87
Selkirk	7	94
Moffat by Ettrick, about	36	130
Birkhill	11	141
Gordon Arms Inn	10	151
Selkirk	13	164
Peebles	21	185
Biggar	15	200
Lanark	12	212
Hamilton	14½	226½
Glasgow	10½	237

2. Of all districts south of the Grampians, there is no difficulty in selecting for pre-eminence in all that attracts the foot of the tourist—the Tweed and Border country, with the adjoining reaches of Clydesdale—scenery the richest and most beautiful that cultivation and woodland, embellished with many a princely structure, watered by noble rivers and delightful streams, lined with gentle slopes and swelling hills and craggy heights, and passing in the uplands into smiling pastoral vales and verdant hill tracts, can present—is combined with objects of antiquarian interest innumerable and varied, while the whole region is intensely marked with historical association, and much of it is familiarly known by name in Scottish Song and Border Story, while in our own days the Tweed, the Ettrick, and the Yarrow, are sort of consecrated names to all, for of the magician of Abbotsford, and the Ettrick shepherd, all have heard. The splendid ecclesiastical fanes of Melrose, Dryburgh, Kelso, and Jedburgh, alone are worthy of a pilgrimage. But in addition are scattered all over the country, the ruins of many a noble stronghold and sturdy Border peel, each with its tales of love and war. The whole Border and contiguous country was for centuries a battle-field, and its annals are written in blood. It is consequently studded over with fortalices, and nowhere in our country is the happy transition from strife to peace more strongly indicated than by the frequent memorials of Border chivalry in contrast with the waving fields and quiet pastures, dotted with fleecy flocks of the present day.

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The lines of railway from Edinburgh to Melrose, and thence to Hawick, and also to Kelso, and projected to Berwick; and again from Edinburgh and Glasgow to the sources of the Clyde, have rendered all the districts in question of peculiarly easy access.

3. We will suppose the tourist at Edinburgh,* and the tour we would chalk out for him in order to an acquaintance with the districts in question, is by railway to Galashiels, Melrose, and Kelso—thence to Jedburgh—from Jedburgh to Hawick; then back by rail, to Melrose—thence by Abbotsford to Selkirk—from Selkirk up the Ettrick as far as Moffat, and back by the Loch of the Lowes and St. Mary's Loch, and down the Yarrow to Selkirk—from Selkirk by Inverleithen to Peebles—from Peebles by Carnwath or Biggar to Lanark and the Falls of Clyde, Hamilton, Bothwell Castle, and Glasgow. The detour by Jedburgh and Hawick, and again along the Ettrick and Yarrow, can be omitted; while, on the other hand again, the tour can be prolonged by a run from Kelso to Berwick, or from Hawick to Langholm and Longtown by Branxholm, and back by Liddesdale.

EDINBURGH TO MELROSE.

4. The Edinburgh and Hawick railway diverges from the east coast line at Portobello. On the way to Dalkeith,† where is Dalkeith Palace, the heavy-looking seat of the Duke of Buccleuch, we pass the ruins of Craigmillar Castle, frequently used as a royal residence, particularly by James V. and Queen Mary.

Beyond Dalkeith, pass Newbattle Abbey, a seat of the Marquis of Lothian; and Dalhousie, the seat of the Earl of Dalhousie. Near Gorebridge station, Arniston House, the seat of the family of Dundas of Arniston, of judicial eminence. Beyond Fushie Bridge station, we pass the ruins of the old Castle of Catcune, and of Borthwick Castle, the largest and finest specimen of the square tower style of Scottish castles. Here Queen Mary and Bothwell sojourned for a brief space after their marriage, and from hence she had to flee in the disguise of a page, and shortly after the conference at Carberry Hill sealed her ill-starred destiny. Borthwick Manse was the birth-place of Dr. Robertson the historian.

* We cannot, in our limited space, attempt any description of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and must refer the reader to Black's Guides to these cities.

† From Dalkeith may be visited the wooded rock-girt Hawthornden, and the architectural bijou Roslin chapel. But a better way is to take the coach from 10 Princes Street to Lasswade, distinguished for its paper works and velvet carpet manufactories. Admission to Hawthornden grounds is restricted to the south side of the Esk, and that only on Wednesdays, and the egress is at Roslin. Any conveyance has then to be sent round by Lasswade to Roslin to meet its freight there, or the visitor, by a walk from Roslin to Loanhead, can meet the Lasswade coach on its return. Below the chapel Roslin Castle forms a fine ruin. On Rosslyn moor, a celebrated battle was fought on 24th February 1302, when the Regent Comyn and Sir Simon Fraser on the same day routed three divisions of the English army. Near Lasswade is Melville Castle, the seat of Viscount Melville.

A short way north-east of Borthwick, stands the noble ruin of Crichton Castle, 12½ miles from Edinburgh, admirably described in Marmion. In its descent to the Tweed, the railway repeatedly crosses and recrosses the Gala Water.

5. Galashiels and Hawick are now the most important woollen manufacturing towns in the south of Scotland; the former, in particular, distinguished for its fine fabric called Tweeds.

Following the line to the eastward, we find it cross the Tweed at Bridgend, and passing the village and ruined tower of Darnick, we soon reach Melrose, at the foot of the "triple-capped" Eildon Hills, 36 miles from Edinburgh, 14 from Kelso, and 12 from Jedburgh.

Close by Bridgend, the Tweed is joined from the south by the Allan water, famed in Scottish Song, and now as the Glendearg of the Monastery. Between Bridgend and Darnick, Buccleuch intercepted Archibald, Earl of Douglas and Angus, returning with the youthful James V. from an expedition in 1528 against the Armstrongs, and endeavoured to rescue him from the Earl's power, but was defeated, the followers of Lords Home and Ker having come up and reinforced the royal forces.

6. MELROSE ABBEY

of St. Mary's, is altogether the finest specimen of middle-pointed, or indeed any age of architecture, which Scotland has produced. It was built by David I. The monks were of the Cistertian order. The choir and transepts are smaller, but the nave larger than those of Dryburgh and Jedburgh. Melrose and the neighbouring religious structures did not escape from their share of the rapine and violence which so often devastated all around, when marauding inroads and reprisals formed the great business of the Border—Scotch and English. Sir Walter's gorgeous imagery has cast into the shade the earlier history of Melrose, when, borrowing the pure light of truth from Iona, it served to reflect it on the adjoining English provinces. The original shrine stood on a different site from the present edifice. Considerable portions of the buttressed walls of Melrose Abbey are standing, and still form a most beautiful edifice: all parts are richly figured with exquisite tracery, and statuary distinguished for expressiveness, the chiselling and sculpturing being to this day quite fresh and sharp. Alexander II. is buried at Melrose; and the wizard Michael Scott, to open whose tomb at dead of night came William of Deloraine. Many, also, of the great family of Douglas are interred here; and here also is entombed the heart of Robert the Bruce.

7. The scenery between Melrose and Kelso is exceedingly beautiful. Generally the whole valley of the Tweed is open, and the bordering verdant hills rounded into smooth summits. The ranges are of some elevation, sloping gradually from the haugh grounds along the river. At times they hem in the latter more closely, and rise more suddenly, but are not much broken by rocky faces or precipitous acclivities; frequently intersected, however, by lateral winding hollows or *hopes* as they are

styled, each with its tributary rivulet. The channel of the river is but little depressed, and it flows limpid and steadily over its pebbly bed. Mingled rich wood, corn, and pasture land, gladden the eye and engage the attention, more by the general tone and complexion, so to speak (except for some miles below Melrose, where the Eildon and other eminences diversify the general character), and by individual accessories and embellishments, than by form and feature in the extended landscape. In the latter part of the course of the Tweed, the country beyond its banks assumes a fine champaign character.

8. At Old Melrose, there was a Culdee establishment (afterwards removed to Coldingham), said to have been founded by Aidan, a monk of Iona, who had been selected, on the application of Oswald King of Northumbria, for the work of evangelising his subjects, and who took up his episcopal residence at Lindisfarne about the year 635.

The Tweed is joined on the opposite side by the Leader, issuing from a beautiful wooded vale. On this, the North Road, though longer, to Dryburgh, some of the finest views are to be obtained.

On the east bank of the Leader, and about a mile and a-half from where it joins the Tweed, is *Cowdenknowes*, a name well known to every lover of Scottish song; and, a mile further up the Leader, the village of Earlstoun, or Ercildoune, close by which are the remains of the tower in which lived the famous "*Thomas the Rhymer*," author of the metrical romance of "Sir Tristrem," and reputed utterer of many popular prophecies.

9. DRYBURGH

is situated on the haugh land on the north side, about four miles from Melrose, contiguous to the mansion of the Buchan family, and completely embosomed amid rich foliage. Of the Abbey, except some of the terminal walls, little remains, but forming altogether a highly picturesque group,

"Where Ruin greenly dwells."

Dryburgh was also founded by the pious King David in 1150. A heightened interest now attaches to Dryburgh, as the last resting-place of the remains of Sir Walter Scott.

Returning to the public road, about four miles from Melrose is the village of St. Boswells, or Lessuden, where the principal cattle and sheep fair in the south of Scotland is held on the 18th of July. This village, in the sixteenth century, contained sixteen strong bastel, or fortified houses—a curious exemplification of the then disturbed state of this part of Scotland.

Littledean Tower, somewhat more than two miles below St. Boswells, was the residence of a family of the Kerrs.

Several beautiful residences come in sight in our progress; but the tourist will be most interested to know that, within about four miles of Kelso, a view is obtained of the Tower of Smailholme, or Sandy Knowe Tower, about two miles north of the river, in the close vicinity of which

Sir Walter resided in his childhood with his paternal grandmother, and imbibed in great measure the impressions which aroused and gave a bias to his genius. It is described in the "Eve of St. John."

KELSO.

10. Kelso, a handsome town, situated on the north margin of the Tweed, with the remains of the ancient castle of Roxburgh, the *Marche dun*, as it was called—on a low eminence, near the junction of the Tweed and Teviot, above the town, and on the further side of the river, and opposite, the splendid ducal palace and rich woods of Fleurs—combine to form pictures of the most exquisite beauty. *Roxburgh Castle* was a principal residence of the kings of Scotland, but little of it now remains. The most prominent object in the town is the Abbey, a tall massive structure, one of the most ancient edifices in the kingdom. The style is purest Saxon, but the arches which support the tower are Early English Gothic. Of the choir, only two arches, with the superstructure, remain. James III. was crowned in Kelso Abbey in 1460, in the seventh year of his age. A holly tree, opposite Roxburgh Castle, marks the spot where his father, James II., was killed, during the siege of the castle, by the bursting of a cannon.

About five miles north of Kelso are the ruins of Home Castle, once an important Border fortress, and two miles north-east of Kelso is the village of Ednam, the birth-place of the author of "The Seasons,"* to whom a conspicuous monument has been erected on a rising ground at about a mile's distance from Ednam.

11. FROM KELSO TO JEDBURGH.

The road to Jedburgh and Hawick, which latter is 20 miles from Kelso, ascends the course of the Teviot, but Jedburgh lies about a couple of miles up the river Jed, which falls into the Teviot from the south.

* KELSO TO BERWICK.

The principal objects of interest on the way to Berwick, twenty-three miles distant from Kelso, are the following:—The ruins of *Wark Castle*, about six miles from Kelso, of which frequent mention is made in the wars between the two kingdoms. About thirteen miles from Kelso, and four below Coldstream, the old bridge by which the English crossed the *Till* before the battle of *Flodden*, of which the fatal field lies on the English side of the Border, between the Till and Norham Castle. The ruins of *Norham Castle*, immortalised in the pages of Marmion, overhang the Tweed about seven miles above Berwick. Above it is Holywell Haugh, where Edward I. met the Scottish nobility, who had referred to his arbitration the claims of the different competitors to the crown, on the death of Alexander III., and where he first advanced his pretensions as Lord Paramount, which led to so protracted and desolating wars. Here, at the ford of Ladykirk, the English and Scottish armies used chiefly to cross before the bridge of Berwick was erected. About five miles above Berwick is the Union Chain Bridge, designed by Captain Brown, and erected in 1820—the first suspension bridge in Great Britain fitted for loaded carriages. Before entering Berwick, which is fortified by a rampart and double walls, with five bastions, we pass *Halidon Hill*, the scene of a battle, 1333, in which the Scots were defeated.

Teviotdale is eminently beautiful, and particularly picturesque where the Cayle joins the Teviot. A monument, in commemoration of Waterloo, has been erected on the top of Penielheugh, on the opposite side of the Teviot, at the confluence of the Jed, from which the view of Merse, Teviotdale, and Tweeddale, with their numerous abbeys, castles, and towns, is very beautiful, and extends to Berwick and the German Ocean.

The vale of the Jed, rendered classic ground by the pen of Thomson, is more confined, but its serpentine windings present a great variety of beautiful landscape. Shortly after crossing the Jed, we pass Bonjedward where there was a Roman station, and celebrated in the ballad of Redswire—a Border conflict in 1575, in which Sir George Heron was killed, and Sir John Foster, warden of the marches, and others, made prisoners. Jedburgh is delightfully situated amid a profusion of trees and garden and orchard ground. The town retains an antique air in many of its houses. No traces remain of its once important castle. The abbey is a magnificent Saxo-Gothic pile. The south transept is almost entirely gone, as also the whole of the aisles and portions of the choir. There are two tiers of arches—those in the second tier subdivided by central shafts, and above these a third storey—in the nave, four lancet windows above each set of arches, forming the upper corridor into an elegant arcade. The nave, in being converted into a parish church, has been shockingly defaced. There is a door of Saxon architecture in the south wall, unrivalled in Scotland for elegance of workmanship, and symmetry of proportions. The tower, crowned with turrets and pinnacles, is about 120 feet high, and the view from the top is quite magnificent. The proportions of this fine edifice are considered peculiarly pure. Jedburgh Abbey was enlarged, or perhaps rebuilt by David I., and appropriated to Canons Regular of the order of St. Austin.

The burghers of Jedburgh often signalized their warlike propensities, and the shoemakers carefully preserve an English penon, a trophy of their prowess at Bannockburn.

The ruins of *Fernichirst*, the ancient seat of the Kerrs, lie a short distance from the town. Beside it there is a well-known oak tree of great size, called the "Capon Tree," and about a mile from the castle, another, called the "King of the Wood." The impervious forest of Jed was the scene of many of the most gallant exploits of the Douglas.

JEDBURGH TO HAWICK.

12. Numerous mansions occupy the Vale of Teviot to Hawick, a distance of about ten miles, of which the principal is Minto House, the seat of the Earl of Minto, and the scenery along the river is diversified by Minto Crags, rising from the bed of the Teviot. The village of Denholm, nearly opposite Minto House, was the birth-place of Dr. John Leyden. From Penielheugh, at the base of which is Monteviot, the residence of the Marquis of Lothian, and to the west, Ancrum House, the seat of Sir Wil-

liam Scott, we may look down upon Ancrum Moor or Lilliard's Edge, where, in 1545, a victory was obtained over the English by the Earl of Angus—

"Where fierce Latour and savage Evers fell,"

and

"Where Scott and Douglas led the Border spear."

The spot is marked by a monument to the fair maiden Lilliard, who fell here fighting on the side of the Scots.

13. HAWICK,

on the right bank of the Slittrig, hemmed in by hilly ground on all sides, is sweetly situated. The town is singularly deficient in public buildings, but carries on extensive woollen manufactures. Within three miles is

BRANXHOLM CASTLE,

formerly a place of great extent and strength, and at one time the residence of the Scotts of Buccleuch, now occupied by the Duke's chamberlains.*

HAWICK TO MELROSE.

The line of railway to Melrose (16 miles) passes through some pretty clean scenery—that is, small dells or ravines, watered by rivulets—and to the west of the Minto Crags, and of Minto House, and of Ancrum Moor, and

* Nearer Hawick, and opposite the junction of the Borthwick with the Teviot, stands *Goldielands Tower*, and in the narrow valley formed by the Borthwick, *Harden Castle*, another of the old Border strengths, and which both belonged to members of the clan Scott.

HAWICK TO LANGHOLM AND LONGTOWN.

The continuation of the same line of road (the usual Carlisle and Edinburgh coach road), through the Cheviot Hills to Langholm, a distance of 23 miles from Hawick, presents little of interest. The whole of this, as of the adjoining pastoral districts, exhibits a continued series of smooth, green, rounded eminences appropriated to sheep. *Langholm* is very beautifully situated. About three miles below Langholm is *Gilnockie Tower*, which belonged to the famous Johnnie Armstrong, who was treacherously hanged by James V. At the small village of Canobie, the scenery is also beautiful, and the winding stream of the Esk to Longtown, nine miles from Langholm, presents a succession of very pleasing landscapes. Three miles before reaching Longtown, where English ground commences, on the opposite side of the Esk, is *Netherby Hall*, the fine seat of Sir James Graham. The route from Hawick to Langholm, by Liddesdale, possesses more of interest for the pedestrian or horseman than that by Branxholm. Liddesdale is made frequent mention of in the Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border, and is also distinguished as the scene of Dandie Dinmont's home. Far the most interesting object in Liddesdale is *Hermitage Castle*, which was one of the strongest of the Border fortresses. It was built by Lord de Soulis in 1243, and afterwards became the stronghold of the great family of Douglas. It now belongs to the Duke of Buccleuch, and is kept in good preservation. Near Ettleton Church are the remains of the Castle of *Jock o' the Stile*, and farther down the ruins of *Mangerton* Tower, a stronghold of the Armstrongs.

Longtown is within a very short distance of Gretna Green, which everybody has heard of.

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crosses the Ale Water, which is overhung by rugged and partially wooded rocks.

MELROSE TO ABBOTSFORD AND SELKIRK.

14. Abbotsford is about 2½ miles from Melrose. The house, a pet creation of Sir Walter's, was designated by himself "a romance in stone and lime," being a congeries "borrowing outlines and ornaments from every part of Scotland." The grounds and plantations have also been fashioned by the same great hand, of which it may well be said—

"Nihil tetigit quod non ornavit."

A large collection of rare and curious antiquities, and many costly and interesting articles presented to the late owner by persons of rank and note, and the valuable library, also contained in a magnificent room 50 feet by 60, and comprising about 20,000 volumes, will gratify the visitor. But the most affecting objects are the body clothes of the gifted dead, worn by him previous to his decease, and the closet or study in which he used to forge his glowing conceptions. The library, museum, plate, and furniture, were presented to Sir Walter as a free gift by his creditors, and have been entailed as an heirloom in the family. Abbotsford is open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 2 till 5.

15. SELKIRK

lies about three miles up, and on the east side of the Ettrick, and about four miles from Abbotsford.

Selkirk and Peebles, being out-of-the-way burghs, retain a good deal of the air of old Scottish towns. In the triangular market-place of Selkirk, there is a fine monument and statue of Sir Walter Scott. The citizens of Selkirk distinguished themselves at the battle of Flodden, and the loss sustained by them gave rise to the beautiful ballad of "The Flowers of the Forest;" and a standard taken by them is still in possession of the Corporation of Weavers.

ETTRICK FOREST.

The field of Philiphaugh, where Montrose was surprised by General Leslie, and lost all the fruits of his previous victories, lies on the opposite side, below the junction of the Ettrick and Yarrow. These two streams run nearly parallel, with an intervening ridge of hills, till they almost meet near Moffat Water, which flows in an opposite direction into the Annan river. The whole of Ettrick is now one extensive sheep-walk. Advancing up the Ettrick, we pass, in succession, Oakwood Tower—said to have been the residence of the wizard Michael Scott—and, in the upper part of the glen, Tushielaw, the fortress of the famous Adam Scott—called "The King of the Border"—who was hung on an ash tree beside his own gate (still to the fore, and called the Gallows Tree) by James V. In this memorable expedition, in 1528, the king was accompanied by about

12,000 men, whom noblemen and gentlemen, especially of the Highlands, assembled in obedience to his proclamation, "to danton the thieves of Teviotdale, Annandale, Liddesdale, and others." A road leads from Tushielaw to the Yarrow, below St. Mary's Lake. Near Tushielaw there is a comfortable inn, and thereafter we reach the ruins of Thirlstane Castle, and the modern mansion of Lord Napier. In the churchyard of Ettrick, still further up, there is a monument to the well-known Rev. Thomas Boston, author of "The Fourfold State;" and one of the few houses in the village was the birth-place of Hogg the Ettrick Shepherd. The road we are now pursuing joins that up the Yarrow, at the farm of Bodsbeck, in Moffatdale, which has given a name to one of Hogg's tales.

MOFFAT.

16. Descending Moffatdale, we soon reach the fashionable watering-place of Moffat, which is about 35 miles from Selkirk, and within two miles of the Beatock Station, on the Caledonian Railway, which is 60½ miles from Edinburgh, and 39½ from Carlisle—Edinburgh, by road, being distant from Moffat 51 miles, and Dumfries 21. It is pleasantly situated in the upper vale of Annan. In the immediate vicinity are the highest hills south of the Forth, affording a great variety of blended Highland and Lowland scenery. The views from Hartfell and the white Coomb of Polmoody are most commanding. There are mineral baths, a bowling green, and promenade, attached to the pump-room, and there are both sulphurated hydrogen and chalybeate wells.

MOFFAT TO SELKIRK BY YARROW.

Reascending now the Moffat Water, and deflecting from the Yarrow road, a few miles up a small glen, to the north, about nine or ten miles from Moffat, it will be found to issue from the dark Loch Skene, a sequestered and desolate spot; about a mile below which the stream forms a magnificent waterfall, called "*The Gray Mare's Tail*," falling into a wild gully, and computed to be about 300 feet in height, and certainly one of the most striking natural objects in the south of Scotland. It is well worthy of a visit from the vicinity of Moffat.

17. Opposite the door of Birkhill, a small house eleven miles from Moffat, at the highest part of the road between Moffatdale and Yarrow, four Covenanters were shot by Claverhouse, and the adjoining district witnessed many of the sufferings of the persecuted remnant. On the "Watch Hill," opposite Birkhill, they had always an outlook, and a cave at Dobb's Linn, below, was a favourite place of retreat. The small loch of the Lowes is next reached, with Chapelhope at the head, a name met with in the history of the Covenanters, and the scene of the tale of the Brownie of Bodsbeck. St. Mary's Loch succeeds, on which

> ——— "The swan
> Floats double—swan and shadow."

In the Vale of Meggat, on the north, are the ruins of Henderland, the

residence of another Border freebooter of the name of Cockburn, who was also hung over his own gate by James V. "The Lament of the Border Widow," a truly pathetic ballad, has reference to this occurrence. At the east end of the loch is Dryhope Tower, the birth-place of Mary Scott "The Flower of Yarrow;" and about a mile to the west, by the loch side, the cemetery of St. Mary's Chapel, east of which is the grave of the sacrilegious John Birnam, a priest of the chaplainry—

> "That wizard priest whose bones are thrust
> From company of holy dust.

The Yarrow, which flows from St. Mary's Loch, though the theme of many a poem and song, is perhaps most familiarly known by Hamilton of Bangour's song—

> "Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny bonny bride."

South of the east end of the loch is *Altrive*, the last residence and scene of the death of the Ettrick Shepherd, and to which a road leads from the Gordon Arms Inn, about thirteen miles from Selkirk. Again, three miles below the lake, is *Mount Benger*, at one time also occupied by him. A wild glen on the Douglas Water, to the north, is said to be the scene of the "Douglas Tragedy," and belonged to the Douglasses so early as the reign of Malcolm Caenmore, and of whose very old peel-house, Blackhouse Tower, there are still some remains. Near the church and manse of Yarrow, three miles below Mount Benger, two huge masses of upright stone are said to commemorate one of the tragic Border duels, but which is matter of dispute. It forms the subject of the old song of the "Dowie Dens of Yarrow," and of a modern ballad of Hogg's, and it is also commemorated in Wordsworth's Poems on Yarrow. This or other early tragedy seems to have given a key-note of plaintiveness to the muse of each succeeding poet who has made the Yarrow a theme of lofty rhyme. An air of plaintive sadness, it is fancied, also accompanies the stillness and silence of the upper vale of Yarrow—the result we take it of association rather than of any peculiarity from other sequestered pastoral scenes.

By and by the glen begins to merge its pastoral in a wooded character, and four miles below the church are the ruins of Newark Castle; and previously on the way, near the village of Yarrowford, the ruins of Hangingshaw Castle, the scene of the song of "The Outlaw Murray."

Newark, a hunting-seat built by James II., and now belonging to the Buccleuch family, is the place where the last minstrel is supposed to pour forth his lay to Anne, Duchess of Buccleuch and Monmouth. Here, on "The Slain Man's Lee," Leslie, after the Battle of Philiphaugh, caused a number of his prisoners to be massacred in cold blood. Nearly opposite is Fowlshiels, where Mungo Park was born and resided. A mile below Newark is "The Sweet Bowhill," a summer residence of the Duke of Buccleuch. Descending to the extremity of Yarrow vale, at the junction of the Ettrick and Yarrow, we come to Carterhaugh, the supposed scene of the fairy ballad of "Tamlane."

Instead of the route we have traced, the tourist may prefer to reverse it, or he may choose to confine himself to the Yarrow, and instead of returning from Moffat, find his way on direct from thence to the Falls of Clyde or elsewhere.

SELKIRK TO PEEBLES AND LANARK.

18. Directing our course now from Selkirk to Peebles, and thence across to the Clyde at Lanark, the road crossing and descending the Ettrick, also directly passes to the further side of the Tweed at Yair Bridge. As we ascend the Tweed, the scenery becomes more pastoral.

On the south side is *Ashiestiel*, at one time the residence of Sir Walter Scott, and the ruins of *Elibank Tower*. About fifteen miles from Selkirk, and six from Peebles, we reach the watering place of *Inverleithen*, the *St. Ronan's Well* of the Waverley Novels. Nearly opposite is *Traquair House*, and on the hill side may still be seen some fine thorn trees, the survivors of the famous thicket, the "Bush aboon Traquair." On the way to Peebles are the remains of several other Border strengths, as Cardrona, Nether Horsburgh, and Horsburgh Castle. And here we may observe, that the whole course of the Tweed had been at one time lined on both sides alternately, at intervals of almost every mile, with square towers, keeps, or peels, while numerous rinks, or dry stone circular forts, occupied the heights. Between Thanes' Castle, the most westerly of the square keeps and Peebles, a distance of ten miles, there were eight such fortalices. They served as points for beacon-fires and places of temporary security for cattle.

PEEBLES,

distant twenty-two miles from Edinburgh, and twenty-one miles from Selkirk, is a very old town, and is the scene of James I.'s celebrated poem of "Peblis to the Play."

PEEBLES TO LANARK.

19. Half a mile west of the town, stands Nidpath Castle one of the most entire of the castles alluded to, and having walls of great thickness. It belonged at one time to the Frasers of Tweeddale, and is now the property of the Earl of Wemyss. On the way to Biggar, Drummelzier Castle, the ancient seat of the Tweedies, now belonging to the Hays, is passed. *Biggar* is a neat little town, about fifteen miles from Peebles, and twelve from Lanark; and the Bog of Biggar is supposed to have been the scene of one of Wallace's victories. South of the town are the remains of Boghall Castle, formerly pertaining to the Earls of Wigton. Nothing particular presents itself to notice on the way from Biggar to Lanark. The country is monotonous, and the tourist had best find his way to the Caledonian Railway, about four miles off. To the south-west lies the lofty hill of *Tinto*, verdant to the top, and "facile princeps" among the adjoining hills. The way from Peebles by Carnwath is two or three miles

shorter than that by Biggar. Near the village are the ruins of Cowdaily Castle, a seat of the Somervilles, and also an extensive iron-foundry at Wilsontown. The district about the sources of the Clyde and Tweed is rich in coal and minerals.

The Glasgow and Edinburgh forks of the Caledonian Railway here form a junction by a large triangle, and one of the most remarkable embankments on the line occurs at Carnwath—an embankment of sand forty feet wide, twenty feet deep, and 2½ miles in length, well consolidated, and displacing the fluid moss through which the line advances.

20. LANARK,

Twenty-five miles from Glasgow and thirty-two from Edinburgh, is distinguished as the scene of Wallace's first exploits, and the neighbouring localities have attached to them numberless traditions connected with his life. About a quarter of a mile from the town are the remains of a fine very old church; and between the town and the river lies Owen's celebrated cotton manufacturing establishment of *New Lanark*; but Lanark is chiefly famous for its proximity to the

FALLS OF CLYDE.

If we except the river Beauly, the falls of which are not of any consequence in point of height, though eminently distinguished by the great beauty of the river scenery, there is none of our larger rivers which displays the phenomenon of waterfalls. Those on the Dee are near its source, before it has attained much volume. On the Clyde we have no less than three fine falls, all within the compass of a few miles. For several miles below, and for a couple of miles or so above Lanark, the channel of the river is closely confined by high rocky banks. These, indeed, in some places, approach within a few feet of each other, but again diverging so as to afford a fine breadth to the river, and beautiful and romantic reaches. The two upper falls, Bonniton and Corra Linn, are within half a mile of each other, and the former two miles distant from Lanark. The fall of Stonebyres is about three miles farther down, and also about two miles from Lanark. Of these the uppermost (Bonniton) is about thirty, Corra eighty-four, and Stonebyres perhaps sixty feet in height. It is advisable to visit the uppermost first. The falls can be visited from either side of the river, there being a bridge between the second and third falls. The summits and ledges of the rocks throughout are embellished with trees and coppice. At Corra Linn the rocks form a fine amphitheatre, and they are set off by the ruins of the old castle of Corra on the western brink; and the whole series and intervening river course are exceedingly beautiful and gratifying.

The tourist ought not to omit to visit *Cartland Crags* on the Mouse, about a mile from Lanark, where the stream flows through a narrow chasm between rocky wooded banks about 400 feet in height, and where a bridge of three arches has been thrown across the ravine of the very great height of 146 feet.

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LANARK TO HAMILTON.

The road to Hamilton crosses to the west side of the Clyde, and conducts through a district deservedly termed "The Orchard of Scotland," from the wealth of rich fruit trees, now whitened with blossom, again bowed down with generous fruit. The scenery is gladsome, charming, and heart and eye filling, in no common degree.

On a rock overhanging the Nethan stands the ruins of *Craignethan Castle*, which furnished the model for Tillietudlem in Old Mortality.

Approaching Hamilton, we cross the Avon, which presents a dell of like character with that of Roslin and Hawthornden. *Drumclog* lies towards the source of this stream, famous for the defeat of Claverhouse by a body of Covenanters, on the first Sunday of June 1679, as so vividly described in the above work.

On the west bank of the Avon are the ivy clad, wood embosomed ruins of *Cadzow Castle*, the ancient baronial residence of the family of Hamilton. Some of the most gigantic and oldest oaks in Scotland are to be found here; and in the forest are preserved herds of the famous breed of Scottish wild cattle, milk-white, with muzzles, horns, and hoofs of jet.

HAMILTON TOWN AND PALACE.

21. Hamilton, as its chief attraction, has to boast of the magnificent ducal palace, standing on a plain between it and the river. Since the extensive recent additions (designed by Hamilton), this is altogether about the most superb private edifice in Scotland; and it is surrounded by a princely park of about 1400 acres of valuable land, comprising a great meadow of some 500 acres. The front façade is a splendid specimen of the Corinthian order, taken from the temple of Jupiter Stator at Rome. It has a central and two terminal projections. In front of the central compartments is a noble double portico of columns of thirty feet high, each of a single stone, and weighing twenty-six tons, with rich entablature and pediment. The portico is peculiarly striking, and the harmony and just proportions of the whole elicit universal admiration. Nor is the splendour and costliness of the interior less worthy of note. But its peculiar charm is the great celebrity of several of the masterpieces in painting, especially "Daniel in the Lion's Den," Rubens' finest picture, "the glory of Hamilton," as it has been well called, and, among others, the "Two Misers," by Mastys; "The Marriage Feast," by Paul Veronese; and the best of Vandyke's portraits, that of "William Viscount Fielding, First Earl of Denbigh." All this opulence of art is, with a noble liberality, open to every respectable person, without any special application.

The South Calder water in the neighbourhood will be found to possess beautiful natural scenery, in combination with a great number of fine country seats.

HAMILTON TO GLASGOW.

The attractions of the Clyde, apart from its peculiar features below Glasgow, are not yet exhausted. About a mile and a half from Hamilton we cross the river by the identical bridge—though now much widened—which witnessed the battle of *Bothwell Brig*, for the details of which we must refer our readers to the pages of Old Mortality. The only struggle was by a brave band posted at the bridge. The holm by the river side belonged to "fierce but injured Bothwellhaugh," who shot the Regent Murray at Linlithgow. The old Gothic church, and the tower of the new church of Bothwell, give a finely featured character to the otherwise pretty village. A mile and a half further on are the magnificent ruins of the massive towers and lofty walls of *Bothwell Castle*, a noble specimen of the first class of Scottish strongholds. This imposing edifice crowns a bank in a fine sweep of the Clyde, whose course is here highly banked and richly wooded. On the opposite side the picturesque ruins of Blantyre Priory, on the edge of a precipitous rock, add to the fine effect of the whole. The castle has repeatedly changed owners, and is now, for the second time, the property of the Douglas family.

The most pleasant road to Glasgow lies on the north side of the river, but near the ruins of Cathcart Castle, in the neighbourhood of Rutherglen, on the other side, is the battle-field of *Langside*, so fatal to Queen Mary's fortunes. At Rutherglen it was that Monteith agreed to betray Wallace to the English.

Ten and a half miles from Hamilton the tourist reaches the prosperous capital of the West of Scotland.

II. Edinburgh to Glasgow and Ayr and the Land of Burns. the Coasts of Galloway and Dumfries.

	Miles
Edinburgh to Glasgow	47½
Glasgow to Ayr	40

For intermediate places, and for those on all the Railway Lines, see Table of Distances for Railway Lines.

22. We have been led to linger so long over the Tweed, the Clyde, and the Border land, that we can but very cursorily notice the other objects in the Lowlands, to which we purpose to direct the tourist's attention.

The railway station in Edinburgh, of the Edinburgh and Glasgow, as of the North British Railway, is at a central point between the New and Old Towns, and near the east end of Princes Street. Along the line to Glasgow, the most striking portions of the route, in point of scenery, are

the wooded Corstorphine Hills, near Edinburgh, studded with numerous villas, and a favourite resort from Edinburgh—the very beautiful wide valley of the Almond between nine or ten miles from the city—the view from the Avon Valley Viaduct, about the nineteenth mile, where the Forth, with Stirling Castle, the Ochils, and Grampians come in sight—and that beyond Falkirk, where the eye commands the battle-fields of Falkirk and Bannockburn, the town of Falkirk, Stirling Rock and Castle, a large section of the fertile valley of the Forth, with the high mountain screens beyond.

The viaduct over the *Almond* is a most imposing work, consisting in all of forty-two arches, with very extensive and high embankments. Between Broxburn and Winchburgh Stations is Newliston House, built by the celebrated John Earl of Stair, and the ruins of *Niddry Castle*, Queen Mary's first resting-place, on her flight from Loch Leven, under the escort of the then owner of Niddry, the gallant Seton Earl of Wintoun.

23. But far the most interesting object to the antiquarian is the ruins of *Linlithgow Palace*, 17¼ miles from Edinburgh. The shell of the building—a large quadrangular pile, enclosing a spacious court—is entire, and with the old church—founded, with so many other of our ecclesiastical structures, by David I.—still used as a place of worship, present an extensive and impressive mass of architecture, as seen from the railway. But the tourist ought not to content himself with the transient views thus obtained; he will be highly gratified by a closer inspection. This was the finest of the palaces, and a favourite retreat of our Scottish kings, and the birth-place of Mary Queen of Scots. Her father being told, on his deathbed at Falkland, of the birth of a princess, he uttered the expressions—"'Is it so? then God's will be done; it came with a lass, and it will go with a lass,' and turned his face and died." The room of her birth is shewn, and also Queen Margaret's bower, where she

"All lonely sat and wept the weary hour."

The internal elevations of each side differ one from the other. On one side is the Parliament Hall, a large and elegant apartment. In the centre of the court are the remains of a curious and elaborately-wrought fountain, erected by James V., one somewhat similar to which has been erected in the town. The castle overlooks a pretty sheet of water. It was on the streets of Linlithgow the Regent Murray was shot by Bothwellhaugh. The church forms the largest place of worship (182 by 100 feet, including the aisles), and one of the finest pieces of Gothic workmanship in Scotland; and in it are buried many of the Great of ages bygone. About three miles beyond Linlithgow, pass the ruins of Almond, formerly Haining Castle, at one time an important fortress.

24. Falkirk, 25¾ miles from Edinburgh, is distinguished for the great cattle trysts held there, and is of historical interest, from the action fought in its immediate vicinity, near the village of Grahamston, in 1298, when Wallace was worsted; and the more recent battle of Falkirk,

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in the Forty-five, when General Hawley suffered a signal defeat from the Highland army. In the churchyard are interred Sir John Graham, the friend of Wallace and his worthy compeer, and Sir John Stewart of Bonkill, who both fell in the first, and Sir Robert Monro of Fowlis and his brother Doctor Monro, who were killed in the second of these national contests.

About two miles to the north are the *Carron*, the greatest iron-works in existence, and to which admission is now readily obtained.

Between Falkirk and Castlecary, which is 15¼ miles from Glasgow, passengers for Stirling and Perth diverge by the Scottish Central, and at Kirkintilloch, nearly nine miles on, the Monkland Railway branches off on the left to Airdrie, while a little way further on, another branch leads on the right to the romantic glen of Campsie.

GLASGOW TO AYR.

25. The Depot of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway is off George Square, and the Booking Offices of the Glasgow and Ayr, and Glasgow and Greenock lines, will be found at the south end of Glasgow Bridge. The tourist will, in all probability, experience unexpected disappointment in the aspect of the country on the route to Ayr, though it is generally well cultivated, and at Lochwinnoch and Loch Kilbirnie, between the sixteenth and twentieth miles, long shelving hill-sides rise in almost unbroken sheets of mingled corn and woodland, and with the fine grounds of Castle Sempil on the former; the glare of the iron furnaces near Beith, adding a peculiar feature of their own. Indeed, great part of the country traversed by the line, and by the branch from Dalry to Kilmarnock, is a very rich mineral field; but the portion of Ayrshire through which the railway passes is generally flat and tame, particularly when it deflects along the coast, without the redeeming richness which the dairy fame of Ayrshire would lead one to anticipate, and quite different from the fine hilly coast of the Firth of Clyde, and the bold and beautiful features of the Carrick shores to the south of Ayr.

Between Glasgow and Paisley are the ruins of *Crookston Castle*, where Mary and Darnley sojourned for a time.

Paisley contains upwards of 60,000 inhabitants, and is celebrated for its manufactories in shawls, silks, and velvets. The chancel of its fine abbey is still used as the parish church. Beyond Paisley are "the Newton Wuds" and "Braes o' Gleniffer," sung by Tannahill, and the lands of *Elderslie*, the patrimony and birth-place of Wallace.

At Dalry, 23 miles from Glasgow, a branch, 10½ miles long, leads to *Kilmarnock*. To the eastward lies the proper district of the celebrated Ayrshire cows.

Kilwinning is the seat of the first Freemason Lodge established in Scotland, which it was by a party of free masons, from the continent, who came to assist in building the abbey. It is also distinguished by the favour in which archery has been held here for nearly four centuries; and

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the custom of shooting for the popinjay, described in Old Mortality, is still kept up.

Here, 26 miles from Glasgow, a branch leads to Saltcoats and *Ardrossan*, the latter 5½ miles distant—a favourite watering-place, and a point of departure and arrival of steamers, especially for Fleetwood, in connection with the Glasgow Railway.

Between Kilwinning and Irvine appear the towers of *Eglinton Castle*, the seat of the Earl of Eglinton, a spacious, modern castellated mansion, surrounded by extensive plantations and very large old trees. Other towns—Irvine (the birth-place of James Montgomery the poet, and of Galt the novelist) and Troon—are passed on the way to Ayr, where the towering mountains of Arran, which had been in sight for some time, continue to attract the eye, and Ailsa Craig shews itself in the distance.

26. Ayr is a very pretty town, with a fine river running through it, navigable into the heart of the town, and having a suburb of fine villas to the south. It possesses several historical associations connected with Wallace and Bruce. Two statues commemorate the first, one by the self-taught sculptor Thom, ornamenting a building on the site of the tower where the hero had been confined. The Parliament which settled the succession was held by the latter in the Dominican monastery.

The principal localities connected with the name of Burns, about Ayr, are the banks of the Doon, within less than three miles to the south—and some spots adjoining, which we will specify—and the villages of Tarbolton and Mauchline, eight and eleven miles to the east. On the banks of the Doon, close by the "*Auld Brig o' Doon*," a beautiful monument, which cost upwards of £3000, has been erected to the memory of the great Peasant Bard. It is a temple, consisting of nine Corinthian pillars, resting on a rustic triangular base, surrounded by ornamental shrubbery, and set down in the midst of a beautiful country, and immediately overlooking those immortalized banks and braes, soft and lovely, "o' Bonnie Doon." Within an apartment on the ground floor are exhibited several interesting relics, and a full length statue of the poet by Flaxman; and in an adjoining grotto are two figures of *Souter Johny* and *Tam o' Shanter* by Thom.

Before reaching the monument, however, close by the roadside, and about two miles from Ayr, is the cottage—a *clay bigging*, a *but* and a *ben*—built by his father with his own hands, and where Burns was born on 25th January 1759. Between the town and the cottage will be pointed out—for we follow nearly in the track of

> "—— honest Tam o' Shanter,
> As he frae Ayr ae night did canter—"
>
> "———————— the ford,
> Whar in the snaw the chapman smoor'd;"
>
> "———— the birks and meikle stane,
> Whar drucken Charlie brak 's neck-bane "

and, nearer the monument,

"——————————— the cairn
Whar hunters fand the murder'd bairn."

Between the cottage and the monument still stands the shell of

"Alloway's auld haunted kirk;"

and close by it,

"——————————— the well
Where Mungo's mither hang'd hersel."

The original of Tam o' Shanter was a Douglas Grahame, tenant of Shanter, in Carrick, not far from Turnberry Castle, and a noted toper, with whom Burns made acquaintance when sojourning, in his nineteenth year, at Kirkoswald.

In 1766, William Burns removed from the cottage to the farm of *Mount Oliphant*, about two miles to the south-east, and lived there for eight years. Obliged by ill fortune to leave Mount Oliphant, old Burns next resided with his family at *Lochlea*, on the banks of the Ayr, three miles from *Tarbolton*. The scene of "Death and Dr. Hornbook" is on the Faile, in the immediate vicinity; and at Coilsfield lived "Highland Mary," the theme of one of his finest ballads.

On his father's death, when Burns had attained the age of twenty-five, his brother Gilbert and he took the farm of *Mossgiel*, near *Mauchline*, which is about eleven miles from Ayr. It was here that greater part of his productions were penned, many of them in the *stable-loft* where he slept. Mauchline is the scene of the "Holy Fair" and "Holy Willie," and of "The Jolly Beggars." "Poor Mailie," "The Mouse," "The Daisy," and other exquisite compositions were inspired by the objects around him at Mossgiel, and the *spence* of the farm-house is described in the opening of "The Vision;" and here he composed the "Cottar's Saturday Night," which of all his productions, perhaps, most enshrines him in the hearts of his countrymen. In Mauchline are pointed out "Auld Nanse Tinnock's" house, and the cottage of "Poosie Nansie"—the scene of the "Jolly Beggars." John Dow, then landlord of the Whitefoord Arms Inn, was the subject of the amusing epitaph written on a pane of glass in the inn. In the house of his early friend Mr. Gavin Hamilton he penned the satirical poem, "The Calf," and in it, too, he was married; for Mauchline was the scene of his courtship of "Bonnie Jean," as it was also of his friendship with Lapraik and David Sillar, "ace o' hearts." "The Lass of Ballochmyle" was a tribute to Miss Wilhelmina Alexander, after having encountered her in the grounds of Ballochmyle House. These brief notices must suffice, and may at least serve to direct the curiosity of those whose admiration of Scotia's Bard may lead them to do homage to his memory by a visit to "The Land of Burns."

27. Should time permit, a drive along the Carrick shore, and into the parish of *Maybole*, before retracing his steps, will amply repay the tourist.

The coast becomes bold and rocky, and is richly wooded, and lined with numerous fine ruins, as Greenan, Dunure, and Turnberry, the castle of the Bruce, while *Colzean*, the spacious and magnificent baronial seat of the Marquis of Ailsa—representative of the powerful race of the Kennedies Earls of Cassilis—overhanging the sea, presents a most picturesque and imposing appearance. The whole of the parish of Maybole is exceedingly rich, and highly wooded, and possesses a remarkable number of old feudal castles in various stages of decay. The extensive ruins of the Cluniac abbey of *Crossraguel*, also about two miles from Maybole, will be found full of interest.

COASTS OF GALLOWAY.

28. Should the tourist incline to make himself acquainted with the Stewartry of *Kirkcudbright*, a district not yet much visited, he will find considerable variety of scenery. After reaching New Galloway, at the head of Loch Ken, by Dalmellington and Loch Doon, and after surveying the fine scenery about Loch Ken, he had better—in order to a complete range of the coast, which, and the banks of the rivers out of the beaten track are best worthy of notice—strike across through the Highlands of Galloway to Newton-Stewart, whence his course will be by Creenan to Gatehouse, and thence, by the west side of the Dee, to Kirkcudbright—from that passing through the wooded grounds of St. Mary's Isle (Earl of Selkirk), to the fine ruins of *Dundrennan Abbey*, where Queen Mary passed her last night in Scotland, and whence she embarked for England. From Dundrennan, we proceed along the bold line of coast to Balcarry Point, jutting out into bold and lofty headlands, and indented by numerous bays, and pierced with many fine caves, at no distant period the haunts of most determined smugglers. This district is the locality of *Ellangowan* in Guy Mannering. Progressing along the bay of that name to the very pretty village of Auchengairn, afterwards proceed to Orchardton, where there is much beautiful scenery. Thence to Palnackie, and, crossing the Urr, to Dalbeattie, or diverging first to visit *Castle Douglas*. The mouth of the Urr commands beautiful views, and the shore of *Colvend* is also much indented by deep caves. Passing through the fertile parish of Kirkbean, in which, near *Arbigland*, is the cottage where the notorious Paul Jones was born, we advance along a range, terminating on the south in the hill of *Criffel*, towards Dumfries by the village of New Abbey—with the beautiful ruin of *Sweetheart Abbey*, founded by Devorgilla, mother of John Baliol—and obtain views of Caerlaverock Castle, on the opposite side of the Nith. The views from Criffel, or other of the heights on the route we have traced, are very extensive, ranging over a great extent of the Scottish and English coast, and seaward embracing the Isle of Man.

29. DUMFRIES

is a well built town, beautifully situated on the east bank of the Nith, distant 71 miles from Edinburgh, 33 from Carlisle, and 60 from Ayr,

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distinguished by the general opulence of its inhabitants—the spaciousness of some of its streets—the number and style of its public buildings—its excellent academy—its libraries—the variety of its literary and other institutions, and the rather gay propensities of the upper classes. Its cemetery is remarkable for the extraordinary number of fine monumental works, but its chief ornament, and a much visited shrine, is the beautiful and far seen *mausoleum* over the mortal remains of *Burns*. "It contains in the interior a fine emblematical marble structure, designed by Peter Turnerelli, which represents the Genius of Scotland investing Burns in his rustic dress and employment with her poetic mantle." The best known historical incident in connection with the town is the assassination by Robert Bruce of "*the Red Comyn*" in the chapel of the monastery of Grey Friars in 1305. Dumfries carries on considerable manufactures in hats, lambs' wool hosiery, and wooden soled shoes, and its cattle, horse, and pig markets are very important. The chief objects around Dumfries are the ruins of *Lincluden* Abbey, originally a nunnery, remarkable for the large scale of its details, and of which the few remains testify to the very rich style of decoration. It was a favourite haunt of Burns, whose last farm was Ellisland, seven miles above the town. About an equal distance to the south are the ruins of *Caerlaverock* Castle—of triangular form—a very strong fortress of the Earls of Nithsdale. At one angle are two round towers, with the entrance between, and at each of the remaining angles there was another round tower. Its strength of position depended upon the waters of the firth and of the Lochar Moss, by which it was hemmed in. It sustained a memorable siege from Edward I. The old Castle of *Torthorwald* is also a picturesque ruin.

LOCHMABEN.

There is also, about eight miles from Dumfries, the very peculiar district of Lochmaben, with the ruins of its castle, the strongest fortress on the border. Eight different lochs lie contiguous in a plain of singular fertility. Amidst these, to appearance in an island, is the old mean looking burgh of Lochmaben. The fortress on one of the lochs, with its outworks, designed with great jealousy of approach, occupied sixteen acres, and was the paternal castle of Robert the Bruce as Lord of Annandale. The possession of this stronghold was an object of much solicitude to the monarchs of both kingdoms. The fine ashlar casings of the walls have been almost all demolished by the Vandal burghers of Lochmaben, of which several houses are wholly built from the stones. The lochs abound with a great variety of trout, severals rare in Scotland, among others *vendace*, a small delicious fish, almost peculiar to this locality. Besides Lochmaben, there are four small villages, "the Four Towns," among the inhabitants of which, called "the King's kindly tenants or rentallers of Lochmaben," an extensive, very rich haugh is parcelled out on a tenure, resembling the udal tenure in Orkney—exempted from all the feudal forms and casualties of the rest of our landed system in Scotland. There

are about 250 such proprietors here, whose ancestors have occupied the same lands for half a-dozen centuries! forming quite a rural aristocracy.

DUMFRIESSHIRE.

Dumfriesshire rises on the north into mountain ranges of very considerable elevation, some as high as 3300 feet. From these it subsides into lesser central hills, intersected by three nearly parallel rivers, the Nith, Annan, and Esk—the courses of which, as they descend, become wide valleys or basins, which latterly subside into extensive plains, separated by eminences of moderate height. The face of the country thus exhibits a very great variety of scenery, the inland portion in particular being highly diversified.

III. Main Railway Lines through Scotland.

1. BERWICK TO EDINBURGH.

30. Communication through the remainder of Scotland has now been almost completely opened up by lines of railway; and as the several descriptive railway treatises supply a large amount of information on each, it is the less necessary for us to enter into any lengthened details. and we do little more than enumerate the most prominent successive objects which present themselves.

The line of the North British Railway is the most interesting of the approaches from England. Before leaving Berwick, now remarkable for the stupendous double bridge across the Tweed, the view from the eminence on which stand the ruins of its very ancient castle, will be found well worthy of attention. The railway commands many splendid sea-coast landscapes, and crosses several deep and beautiful ravines, and leads through the high cultivation of Berwickshire and East Lothian. Various spots important in Scottish history are passed over—thus, the scene of the victory in 1296 by the forces of Edward I., under the Earl Warrinne, over far superior numbers under the Earls of Buchan, Lennox, and Mar, and of the defeat of the Covenanting Army under General Leslie by Cromwell in 1650, both within two miles south of Dunbar. Again, between the Tranent station, 10½, and Inveresk, 6½ miles from Edinburgh, the scenes of the battles of *Prestonpans*, where Sir John Cope sustained so memorable a defeat from the Highlanders under Prince Charlie, and *Pinkie*, where the Scottish army, in 1541, in the early part of Queen Mary's reign, suffered from the English Protector, the Duke of Somerset, with but half their force, one of the most disastrous reverses ever sustained by the Scottish arms; and intermediate *Carberry Hill*, where Queen Mary surrendered to the Confederate Lords.

31. At *Dunbar* are vestiges of its very ancient and once formidable

castle, gifted, so early as 1070, by Malcolm Caenmore to Cospatrick, a Saxon noble, who fled to Scotland with Edgar Atheling, and memorable for the successful defence made in 1337 by *Black Agnes*, daughter of the great Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, during her husband's absence, against the Earl of Salisbury. The tower of the Gothic church of Dunbar is 117 feet high, and several other churches near the line are remarkable for their high towers. On either side of the Cockburnspath station, twenty-one miles from Berwick, are two remarkable railway works—the *Tower Dean Embankment*, of the very unusual height of 136 feet, and the *Dunglass Dean Viaduct*, of six arches; that which spans the Dean 124½ feet in height from the bed of the stream, 135 feet span, and 45 feet of rise in the arch.

Between Dunbar and Linton, the silver firs, about 200 years old, at Belton House, and the very extensive hedges of gigantic holly in the grounds at *Tyningham*, measuring from eleven to eighteen feet in width, and from fifteen to twenty-five feet in height, deserve to be noticed.

Off the line of railway, and between it and the sea, due east from Reston station, 11½ miles north of Berwick, the present church of *Coldinghame* exhibits, in its northern and eastern wall, all that remains of the magnificent priory founded in 1098 by Edgar, King of Scotland, the wealthy priors of which figure so prominently in early Scottish history, and beyond it is the bluff promontory of St. Abb's Head.

Due east from Grant's House station, 5 miles to the north, on the verge of the cliffs, are two tall remnants of *Fast Castle*, the principal strength of the Homes, and the "*Woolfscrag*" of "*The Bride of Lammermoor*."

32. *Two branches* of this line lead, the one from Drem, 17½ miles from Edinburgh, to *North Berwick*, on the sea-coast, and the other from Chance Inn, about 3½ miles to the north, in an opposite direction, to *Haddington*. The former passes over a plain, the most fertile portion of Scotland. The conical and very conspicuous *Law* at *Berwick* commands most extensive views. Close by the town are the fine ruins of a Cistercian nunnery, and three miles to the east of the town are the ruins of the impregnable *Castle of Tantallon*, the celebrated hold of the Douglasses, and so forcibly described in Marmion, and opposite it, about 1½ miles from the shore, the high, isolated *Bass Rock*, on which stood a still more inaccessible castle, at times used as a state prison, and especially noted for the confinement of several distinguished Covenanters. It is tenanted by great flocks of sea-fowl, and, among others, of solan geese. Boats may be had of the keeper at Canty Bay.

Haddington is remarkable as the birthplace of Alexander II. of Scotland and of John Knox. Its fine abbey was called "*Lucerna Loudonia*," the nave of which has been converted into a parish church. There are remains of another such structure in the adjoining village, called "The Abbey."

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2. CALEDONIAN RAILWAY.

33. There is less to detain us on this great and important central line of communication—in the way of description—as of the distance of 100 miles from Carlisle to Edinburgh, about one-half is quite uninteresting—that is from Beatock Station near Moffat, to within about fifteen miles of Edinburgh. The rest of the line passes through fertile tracts, with the usual accompaniments, and frequently presents beautiful views; and the Highlands of the south of Scotland possess fine distinctive forms: but there are no individual objects calling for special note, unless Gretna Green—the bare mention of which conveys its peculiar attributes; and Lochmaben and Moffat Wells, already alluded to; while the attractions along the Glasgow Branch have met with all we can spare room to say, though much less than they deserve.

3. THE EDINBURGH, PERTH, AND DUNDEE RAILWAY

34. Courses through the fertile undulating plains of Fifeshire, with beautiful sea views at the outset along the Firth of Forth, and passing numerous towns and villages. The cutting of rock close by Pettycur, marks the scene of the death of *Alexander III.*, in the train of which followed such disasters. Grange House, near Kinghorn, was the residence of the celebrated Kirkaldy of Grange, Queen Mary's staunchest adherent. "The Lang Town of Kirkaldy," a street of about 3 miles in length, is celebrated as the birth-place of Dr. Adam Smith. The tourist will be gratified by stopping at the Falkland Station, twenty miles from Edinburgh, to visit the beautiful ruins of the regal *palace* of *Falkland* in the neighbourhood, where James V. died, and mentioned in his "*Chrystes Kirk on the Greene*" as "Falkland on the Greene;" celebrated also as the place of imprisonment of David, Duke of Rothesay, son of Robert III., whose life was sustained for a time by a wet nurse, who contrived to carry milk from her breasts through a reed, to the unhappy prisoner, who, however, in the pangs of hunger, is said to have eaten off portions of his own fingers! The architecture is mixed Classic, Gothic, and Scottish Baronial. Between Ladybank Junction, twenty-seven miles, and Springfield Station, thirty miles, we pass through the parish of Cults, in which Sir David Wilkie (whose father was minister of the parish) was born. The work which brought him into notice was "Pitlessie Fair," referring to a village in the parish. Lord Campbell's father was minister of the adjoining parish of Cupar. Behind the Crags of Blebo, near Dairsie Station, is *The Magus Moor*, the scene of the murder of Archbishop Sharpe.

35. Should the traveller's time permit, he ought certainly to arrange a visit to *St. Andrews*, which bears still quite an ecclesiastical and collegiate air, with its spacious main street—the ruins of its magnificent cathedral overlooking the sea—and picturesque castle or archiepiscopal palace on the verge of a rocky cliff, where Cardinal Beaton was murdered—its University and Madras College—the latter founded by the late

Dr. Andrew Bell; and the high cincturing fortified walls of the Augustine Monastery, which also embrace the cathedral buildings. Of the cathedral little more remains than the lofty east and west ends, with their corner towers, and towering high into the sky separated, and separated, so large was this structure, by an interval of 350 feet. But of most interest are the walls of the small oblong chapel, and the square tower of St. Regulus, of a size very disproportioned to the fane of which it is an adjunct, beside the cathedral, the memorial of a purer faith, and built of carefully dressed stone, which there is reason to believe, to be the oldest edifice in the kingdom. By monkish legends, the date of its erection is drawn so far back as the fourth century. The archiepiscopal see was transferred from Abernethy to St. Andrews by Malcolm III. The city is associated with many important events—not of least interest are the martyrdoms of John Resby and Paul Craw, of Hamilton, Forrest, and Wishart, and the preaching of John Knox. Of the latter, the demolition of the cathedral was however a lamentable result.*

36. At *Ladybank Junction* the *Perth Branch* diverges, and passing the beautiful loch of Lindores, affords, near Newburgh, a view of the mouldering fragments of the abbey of that name (Lindores); and its clustering old fruit trees. The views of the Firth of Tay and Carse of Gowrie are splendid. Hence the line proceeds through the now inconsiderable village of *Abernethy*, once the supposed capital of the Pictish kingdom, where is the celebrated round tower (which is seventy-four feet high)—regarding which, and the tower of Brechin (the only specimens in Scotland), resembling the Irish round towers, so much has been written. Antiquarians of authority are now disposed to limit the age of these two to the twelfth century. We are unwilling to give up the period of 1000 years as their assignable age—*i. e.* as built in the ninth century—when the Scottish and Pictish kingdoms were united, being a conjectured era of their erection, if not the Pictish period preceding. Competent judges range the Irish round towers from the fifth to the thirteenth centuries. The state of preservation is at any rate very remarkable. There seems no doubt that these edifices were ecclesiastical, and in all probability used as belfries.

Afterwards pass the well-known watering place of Bridge of Earn and Pitkeathly Wells. The view from Moncrieff hill between these and the Tay, was called by Pennant, "the glory of Scotland."

4. THE SCOTTISH CENTRAL,

37. Which continues the direct line of the Caledonian Railway to Perth, branches off from the Greenhill Junction about half way between the Falkirk and Castlecary Stations on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway. This line passes across the rich plain of the Forth, near the

* Omnibuses run from the Leuchar Station to St. Andrews (6 miles) at all hours, to suit the trains.

battle fields of Falkirk and Bannockburn—past Stirling—up the course of the Allan past Dunblane and the Sheriff Muir—and near the Roman Camps at Ardoch—and slants into Strathearn—throughout a very rich tract of country. Several points touched by the line have been already alluded to.

38. But we must, diverging for a space, specially call the tourists attention to the scenery of the Devon, which falls into the Firth at Cambus, below Stirling, and to the once regal town of Dunfermline.

CASTLE CAMPBELL AND THE SCENERY OF THE DEVON, THE CALDRON LINN, RUMBLING BRIDGE, AND DEVIL'S MILL.

The course of "the crystal Devon," "the winding Devon," sung by Burns, is of a charming character to Dollar, thirteen miles from Stirling, having, on one hand, the variegated slopes of the Ochils, terminating at the south in Damyat, celebrated for its commanding view, and on the other, the rich expanse of the plain of the Forth, with its singularly winding river and gradually widening estuary. The little glen of *Alva*, rather more than half way, invites the tourist to turn aside to scan its woodland beauties and cascade. At *Dollar*, where there is an academy of considerable repute, we are in the immediate vicinity of the fine quadrangular ruin of *Castle Campbell*, long a seat of the Argyle family, imposingly perched on an eminence between two deeply channelled rivulets, which, uniting below its walls, form the brook which runs through Dollar. An amphitheatre of hills rises around, clothed, as are the ravines, in close mantling wood. This structure was destroyed in 1645 by Montrose and his adherents, the Ogilvies of Airlie, alike hereditary enemies of the Campbells. The ancient name is the *Castle of Gloom*, and from the names of the surrounding localities, it has further, by a play of words, been said to be situated on the *Water of Grief*, in the *Glen of Care*, and the *Parish of Dolour!* About three miles above Dollar, the channel of the Devon, immediately after making the singular change in its course, called "The Crook of Devon," exhibits a succession of peculiar appearances, known under the somewhat fantastical titles of the *Caldron Linn*, the *Rumbling Bridge*, and the *Devil's Mill*. Of these, the last and uppermost is where the river, forming a cascade, falls into a deep rocky cavity, beating against the sides of which a sound is produced resembling that of a mill, and the prefix to its cognomen is derived from this said mill working Sunday as well as Saturday. Less than a quarter of a mile below, the narrow duct of rock is spanned by an arch 120 feet above the water, of which the alteration of its note, as it toils along to a rumbling noise, gives the variation of epithet to this spot. The aspect of the chasm from the bridge, or from the adjoining banks, is startling, and highly picturesque. A mile below, the water, within a short space, has channelled out in its descent a series of deep basins or caldrons in the rock, in which it seethes and boils in great commotion, and finally precipitates itself from the third and last caldron in a fine waterfall of forty-four feet.

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39. DUNFERMLINE.

Instead of retracing his steps, we would recommend to the tourist to strike across to Dunfermline, and return to Stirling by Alloa. Dunfermline is distinguished by having been an early seat of the Scottish monarchy and frequent residence, and long the burial place of our kings. The ruins of a square tower on a peninsular mound, on the side of a deep glen, close by the town, is called *Malcolm Cænmore's Tower*. There he was married to his queen, "the sainted Margaret," daughter of Edward Atheling; and it was he who transferred the place of royal sepulture hither from Iona. Malcolm himself, David I., Alexander I. and III., and Robert Bruce, and other monarchs, were buried in the choir of the abbey, the site of the present parish church. The abbey became one of the most richly endowed monastic institutions in Scotland, and was governed by a mitred abbot. The remaining lofty wall of the fratery, with its three tiers of windows, still testifies to the style of the establishment. Of the abbey the strong buttressed nave remains entire, of Norman architecture, with some of the pillars cut in zigzag, others spirally grooved. A gloomy grandeur is the characteristic of the whole. The choir and transept have been re-constructed for a parish church. It will perhaps be in the recollection of the reader that, some years ago, in clearing away the ruins of the choir, the skeleton of the illustrious Bruce was discovered quite entire, wrapped in its leaden shroud. It was re-interred under the pulpit of the present church. But a fragment of the palace now remains. The last time it was honoured by a royal visit was in 1650, on which occasion Charles II. signed the solemn league and covenant here.

The town of Dunfermline is celebrated for its manufactures of fine table linen, in which from 6000 to 7000 persons are employed in the town and suburbs. The whole surrounding district is peculiarly rich in coal, iron, and limestone, including the extensive collieries of the Earl of Elgin, and a variety of metals have been wrought in the Ochils. On the way to Stirling, along the rich carse grounds bordering the Forth, the towers of Clackmannan and Alloa are objects in the landscape which attract the eye; the former a remnant of a castle of Robert the Bruce's, whose sword and helmet are preserved at Broom Hall, the Earl of Elgin's mansion, and the other of the old castle of the Marr family, whose fine mansion and demesne adjoins the town.

40. *The Bridge of Allan*, past Stirling, is a delightful watering-place. A steep incline, rising to Dunblane, enables to enjoy more leisurely the delightful scenery of the Allan. Here, in the grounds of Kippenross, there is a noted sycamore, supposed to be the largest in the kingdom, and nearly 500 years old. *Dunblane Cathedral* is pretty entire in the walls, and the choir is used as the parish church. Some of the quaint oak carving, and a few old sarcophagi and monuments, are preserved. Dunblane is supposed to have been a cell of the Culdees. It stands associated with the name of the eminent and spiritual Leighton, long

remembered here as "the good bishop." The railway passes close to his favourite walk. His library, bequeathed to the clergy of the diocese, is still entire. About two miles to the north-east of the town, the *Sheriff-muir* was the scene of the drawn battle, 13th February 1715, between the rebel army, under the Earl of Mar, and the royal troops, under Argyle. The latter's left was speedily broken, and completely routed by Glengarry and Clanranald, while Argyle drove back his opponents (who attempted to rally ten times) to the Allan. The victorious Highlanders returning on his rear, caused him, however, to desist, and both armies withdrew, neither knowing which had won the day; but Argyle succeeded in preventing the intended passage of the Forth. *Forteviot*, ten miles from Perth, is the locality to which Kenneth M'Alpine removed the Scoto-Pictish monarchy in the ninth century. Dupplin Castle (the Earl of Kinnoull) is seen as we advance. At Moncrieff the line passes through a tunnel of rock, 1¼ miles in extent, emerging from which, the valley and river of the Tay, with Perth's fair city, bursts in splendour on the view.

5. The Perth and Dundee, Dundee and Arbroath, Scottish Midland Junction, and Arbroath and Forfar Railway.

41. These lines form a continuous circuit of communication by the several points indicated by their respective names, and by the Dundee and Newtyle Railway having a further middle line of connection, and afford a variety of choice, as far as the Froickheim Junction, about midway between Forfar and Arbroath, whence the Aberdeen Railway continues the line of railway to that city. The tourist should, perhaps, prefer the direct line to Dundee. This passes through the level *Carse of Gowrie*, so well known for its great expanse of the finest corn land; it is embellished with numerous mansions, and, with the contiguous Firth of Tay, is lined by ranges of wooded and cultivated hills. The large, bustling manufacturing and sea-port town of *Dundee* presents a fine appearance from the water or quays—its peculiar feature being its great, massive square steeple, which is worth ascending for the view.

In this way, however, unless by taking the Dundee and Newtyle line, one misses the fine *Castle of Glammis*, the best specimen extant, being in perfect preservation, of the old Scottish baronial architecture—the oldest portions early Norman, the latter Flemish. It stands in the midst of extensive woods, quite near the Glammis station on the Scottish Midland Junction, 27 miles from Perth. It is a large and lofty pile, crowned with sharp-pointed turrets and railed platforms. The great hall, and especially the roof, is very fine. There are several valuable paintings and some curious relics. There had been lofty corresponding wings, with intervening courts, which, with very extensive and intricate outworks, have unfortunately been removed. Malcolm II. is said to have died here, having been wounded in the vicinity by assassins; and the representations on certain curiously sculptured obelisks near at hand, are supposed to represent the occurrence. These, and a curious sun-dial in the court,

are worthy of attention. The outlook from the top of the castle, on the fertile expanse and rich woods of Strathmore, will be found not less so. We ought not to omit to say that the railway runs up from Perth along the course of the Tay, commanding very beautiful views, as far as its junction with the Isla, where the scenery is picturesque. On the right will be seen *Dunsinane Hill*, a name associated with that of Macbeth. It is crowned by what has been a fortified station, which may have owed its origin to him.*

Progressing from Dundee, the next point of special interest is *Arbroath*, supposed to be the "Fairport," and its "Redhead" crags and coves to have been in the novelist's eye, in depicting some of the scenes of the Antiquary. It possesses a more palpable interest in the ruins of the celebrated Abbey of Aberbrothock, founded by William the Lion, who lies interred within its walls, and dedicated to Thomas A'Becket, shortly after his murder, and rather a singular recognition, if it be so regarded, of the principle of ecclesiastical supremacy to which he fell a martyr. The abbey has been a magnificent building, but now a mass of rather unsightly fragments, having sadly gone or been reduced to decay, none of the pillars remaining, and the friable stone having yielded up all vestiges of the decorative parts; but the Barons of Exchequer have interfered to prevent further demolition, and have had the area cleared out.

6. THE ABERDEEN RAILWAY.

42. There are not many points of particular interest in the further way north. A slight divergence at the Montrose Station, on one hand, leads to Montrose, and a short branch, in the opposite direction, conducts to Brechin.

Montrose is a considerable and rather handsome town, built on a low peninsula stretching from the north across the estuary of the Esk, and connecting with the southern shore by one of the largest of suspension bridges, and is girt on the east by extensive links and sands.

Brechin is delightfully situated above the wooded dell of the Esk, and is remarkable for the round tower attached to the church—one of the only two such in Scotland—the other already noticed being at Abernethy. The cathedral church itself is very old, with another tower short and square, and terminating in a dwarf octagonal spire. Messrs. Henderson's nurseries here are deservedly celebrated.

The country to Aberdeen continues well cultivated, but rather bleak; but the line presents variety in crossing several small intersecting

* There is some very fine wooded, river, and cliff scenery at *Craighall*, on the Ericht, near Blairgowrie, of much the same character, though not on so grand a scale, as that of the Findhorn. Between Blairgowrie and Dunkeld, a distance of twelve miles, the drive by the lochs of Marlie, Cluny, Butterstone, and Lowes, is very pleasing, and especially as we approach Dunkeld. The pass into the Deeside Highlands, by the *Spittal of Glenshee*, presents some fine rocky mountain peaks towards the summit level.

valleys; the outskirts of the Grampians cause the interior to assume a hilly character: and north of Stonehaven the railway runs, in great measure, along the face of cliffs immediately above the sea. Near the neat town of Stonehaven, we have the extensive ruins of *Dunnottar* Castle, built by the Keiths, Great Marischals of Scotland, which occupy four or five acres on the edge of a portion of the iron-bound coast to the south, with a deep intervening chasm. The shell of the great square tower is entire, and is surrounded by the ruins of other numerous buildings, showing how large the garrison had been. The area at top was encircled by a rampart wall, and the access was by a winding footpath, and through a gateway in a wall, forty feet high, and along an arched passage protected by more than one portcullis. During the wars of the Commonwealth, the regalia were placed for safety by the Privy Council in Dunnottar, as the place of greatest security in the kingdom. During the siege which ensued, when driven to extremity, Mrs. Ogilvie, the governor's wife, entrusted them to Mrs. Granger, wife of the minister of Kinneff, who had been permitted to visit her by the English general, Lambert. Mrs. Granger contrived boldly to carry out the crown in her lap, while her servant had the sceptre and sword slung in a bag of flax on her back. They were secreted at times under the pulpit at Kinneff, and at others in a double-bottomed bed at the manse, till the Restoration. Mrs. Ogilvie did not tell her husband where they were till she was on her deathbed. Wallace, about 1296, according to Blind Harry, destroyed 4000 Englishmen at Dunnottar, setting fire to the church where they had fled for sanctuary.

> "Some hung on crags, right dolefully to dee,
> Some lap, some fell, some fluttered in the sea."

In 1685, 167 of the Covenanters were thrust into the Whigs' Vault at Dunnottar, where many of them died. With these characteristic incidents of times to which our own form a happy contrast, we close our rapid survey of the Lowlands, by way of Supplement to our Guide to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

NOTE TO SECTION II.

ERRATUM AS TO ROADS ON THE WEST OF ROSS AND SUTHERLAND SHIRES.

In our preliminary remarks on the roads on the west of Ross and Sutherlandshire, p. 43, it has been incorrectly stated, that "from Ullapool, through the district of Coigach, to Loch Inver, in Sutherlandshire, there is yet no public road." In the description of Sutherlandshire, p. 515, this mistake is so far rectified by the sentence—"At Ledmore a road branches off south-west to Cnockan, the extreme boundary of Assynt, towards Loch Broom, which has now been continued to Ullapool, sixteen

miles distant." We deem it right thus more pointedly to direct attention to this fact:—This short road forms a very important link in the means of intercourse on the west coast, as thereby there is a line of communication completed, though by rather tortuous windings, throughout the whole of the west coast, and thus round the whole of Scotland. From Ullapool, southwards, we may either take the Garve road, or that by Loch Greinord, to Poolewe (almost completed), and thence to the Dingwall and Jeantown road, at Auchnasheen—while, were the road formed from the head of Loch Torridon to Shieldag, a much more westerly point would be reached direct. For the formation of the road from Ullapool to Ledmore, as well as the repair, or rather reconstruction, of that to Auchnasheen, and also those round by Loch Greinord and Loch Maree, and elsewhere, the public and the Highlands are indebted to the co-operation of the Highland Relief Committee with the public spirited landed proprietors in these districts—a valuable and enduring memorial of the labours of the Committee.

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAVELLERS.

A VERY few hints will suffice in the way of suggestions as to equipment and other considerations in travelling. The more limited the number of persons in a touring party, it is obvious the less risk there will be of inconvenience in point of accommodation, as there may be in many parts of the Highlands where there is only a single inn of moderate size. Pedestrians should have their wardrobe as light and scanty as possible; but in every case we would recommend woollen clothing to be used (including worsted stockings, which should be changed every day). Or a light over-coat should be carried. Indeed this will be found indispensable, as there may be frequent occasion for boating and coaching. A walking umbrella should always be carried, to protect one from the sun as much as from the rain, together with a compass, and a travelling map had best be wrapped in an oil-skin, which will also serve to carry a few sheets of writing-paper and sketch-book, with pen and ink and drawing materials. In case of deviating out of the usual thoroughfares, a few buttons, pins, thread and needles, and soap, with a piece of linen rag for bruises and sores, may not be amiss; and all ought to be provided with a little medicine, chiefly laxative and sedative. Blisters on the skin should be opened by running a needle through them, or with a penknife, and the foot and stocking sole well rubbed with brown soap, which hardens the skin. A tea dinner is a good arrangement, with refreshment during the day. But the pedestrian should not leave in the morning without at least a piece of bread or other nourishment, to prevent faintishness by the way. Eat it along with the water you will feel disposed to drink on your journey, but use spirits of all kinds in great moderation, especially during the early parts of the day. Milk and water is a safe and satisfying beverage. If on a botanical or geological excursion of some endurance, carry but one pair of strong, large-sized shoes, one pair of trowsers, one cloth waistcoat with *leather* pockets, one square short coat, provided with six large pockets, two out and two inside, and two in the breasts, two pair of coarse worsted socks, two shirts, one black silk neckcloth, and a cap or wide-awake. Geologists should carry a small chipping hammer, and a quadrant for taking the dip of rocks; and the botanist will find that a few sheets of paper and blot-sheet between stout pasteboards, and tied with a strong cord, or a strap and buckle, will form a useful and convenient press for preserving specimens. Knapsacks are apt to tear and let in the rain where it is not wanted; so that, if the appearance of a light wicker basket, so woven or protected as to be water tight, is disregarded, it will be found the best general receptacle for all sorts of stores and comforts. But for the most part, the pedestrian should make his wardrobe so portable as to be easily contained in his coat pockets. Waterproof capes will be found of great service by all travellers, and are less burdensome than an over-coat; but then they do not serve as a sufficient substitute when one is exposed without motion. A pair of slippers will be found a comfort, which well repays the trouble of carrying.

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1. DISTANCES IN THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS.

1. *Inverness to Perth, by Banff, Aberdeen, and Dundee.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Campbelltown (tolerable inn)	11	11	Aberdeen	16	119
Nairn	7	18	Stonehaven	15	134
Forres	11	29	Inverbervie	10	144
Elgin	12	41	Johnshaven	3¼	147¼
Fochabers	9	50	Montrose	9	156¼
Cullen	13	62	Arbroath	12¾	169¼
Banff	14	76	Dundee	17	186¼
Turriff	11	87	Inchture	8¼	194½
Old Meldrum	16	103	Perth	13¼	207¾

2. *Inverness to Perth, by Huntly, Aberdeen, and Brechin.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Fochabers, (see No. 1)	50	50	Esk Bridge	6¼	141¼
Keith	9	59	Brechin	5¼	146½
Huntly	10	69	Forfar	12¼	159
Pitmachie	13	82	Glammis	5¼	164¼
Inverury	9	91	Meigle	6¾	171¼
Aberdeen	16	107	Cupar-Angus	5¼	176½
Stonehaven	15	122	Perth	12¾	189¼
Laurencekirk	13	135			

3. *Inverness to Perth, by the Highland Road.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Moy, public-house	11¼	11¼	Dalnacardoch	12¾	71¼
Freeburn, tolerable,	3¾	15¼	Blair, or Bridge of Tilt	10¾	82
Bridge of Carr, a good small inn	9¼	24½	Moulinearn	9¼	91¾
Aviemore	8	32¾	Dunkeld	9¾	101½
Kingussie	12	44¾	Perth	15	116¾
Dalwhinnie	14	58¾			

4. *Perth to Fochabers, by Blair-Athole, Castletown of Braemar, and Grantown.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Dunkeld	15	15	Grantown to Bridge of Carr, 10 miles.		
Blair	19¼	34¼			
Castletown of Braemar	26	60¼	Ballindalloch or Inveravon,		
Rienloan, tolerable	13	73¼	small inn	13	118
Corgarff, thatched public-house	8¾	82	Aberlour	7¼	125¼
Tomantoul, tolerable	9	91	Rothes	4	129¼
Grantown	14	105	Fochabers	10	139¼

5. *Perth to Aberdeen, by Blairgowrie, and Castletown of Braemar.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Cupar-Angus	12¼	12¼	Pannanich	16	67
Blairgowrie	4¾	17	Kincardine-O'Neill	16	83
Spittal of Glenshee	19	36	Park Inn	12	95
Castletown of Braemar	15	51	Aberdeen	13	108

6. *Inverness to Glasgow, by Fort-William and Crinan Canal.*

	Miles	Miles
General's Hut, near Foyers, slated public-house	18	18
Fort-Augustus, tolerable	14	32
Invergarry	7½	39½
Letterfinlay, slated public-house	7½	47
Spean Bridge, slated public-house	8	55
Fort-William	8	63
At Bannavie, a large inn.		
Appin	20	83
Oban	13	96
Easdale, no inn	15	105
Crinan Canal, north end, small inn	20	125
Lochgilphead	9	134
Tarbert	13	147
Rothesay	27	174
Greenock	19	193
Glasgow	26	219

7. *Inverness to Dunvegan, by Kyle Rhea.*

	Miles	Miles
Drumnadrochet	14	14
Invermoriston, small inn	13	27
Fort-Augustus, 7=34 miles.		
Torguil, slated public-house	8¼	35¼
Cluany, slated public-house	16	51¼
Shielhouse, good public-house	11½	63¼
Shielhouse to Dornie public-house, 10; Kyle Akin, good inn, 10=20 miles.		
Kyle Rhea, public-house	11½	74¾
Broadford	12	86¾
Isle Oronsay, steam-boat inn, 9 / Armadale, no inn, 7	16	
Sligachan, good	13	99¾
Portree	13	111¾
Kinloch-Snizort, public-house	6	117¾
Coushletter, public-house	6	123¾
Dunvegan	10	133¾

8. *Inverness to Dalwhinnie, by Fort-Augustus.*

	Miles	Miles
Fort-Augustus, (see No. 6).	32	32
Garvamore, no inn	18	50
Bridge of Laggan	8	58
Dalwhinnie	5	63

9. *Inverness to Loch Hournhead.*

	Miles	Miles
Invermoriston, (see No. 7).	27	27
Fort-Augustus	7	34
Invergarry Inn	7½	41½
Tomandoun, slated public-house	12	53½
Loch Hournhead, slated public-house	20	73½
Tomandoun to Cluany, 10½ miles.		

10. *Inverness to Arisaig.*

	Miles	Miles
Letterfinlay, (see No. 6).	47	47
Inverlochy Castle, no inn	14	61
Bannavie	2	63
Glenfinnan, tolerable	14	76
Kinloch-Aylort, slated public-house	10	86
Arisaig, slated public-house	10	96

11. *Fort-William to Pitmain, by Loch Laggan.*

	Miles	Miles
Spean Bridge, small inn		7
Bridge of Roy and Inn,	3	10
Sinclair's Inn, east end of Loch Laggan, public-house	25	35
Bridge of Laggan	8	43
Pitmain	11	54

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12. *Fort-William to Lochgilphead.*

	Miles	Miles
Ballachulish Ferry inns, the best on south side	14	14
Durar, small inn	7	21
Portnacrosh, public-house	4	25
Shian Ferry, public-house	4	29
Connel Ferry, small inn	5	34
Lorn, tolerable inn	6	40
Kilininver, small public-house	5	45
Kilmelford do.	7	52
Barbreck	8	60
Kilmartin	8	68
Lochgilphead, inn	8	74
Do. to Inverary	16	

13. *Oban to Staffa and Iona, by Ulva.*

	Miles	Miles
Kerrera, public-house	4	4
Ferry to Achnacraig, slated public-house	7	11
Craiganour, slated public-house	5	16
Aros, thatched public-house	11	27
Tobermory, 8½ miles.		
Lochnakeal, public-house	4	31
Laggan-Ulva, public-house	7	38
Staffa, no inn or house of any kind	9	47
Iona, no public-house, but cleanly private lodging	12	59

14. *Oban to Dumbarton, by Inverary and Loch Lomond.*

	Miles	Miles
Connel Ferry, small inns	5	5
Shian Ferry, 5, Portnacross, 4, Ballachulish, 11, Fort-William, 14=39 miles from Oban.		
Taynuilt, small inn	6	11
Dalmally	12	23
Dalmally to Tyndrum, 11 miles.		
Inverary	16	39
Taynuilt to Port-Sonachan, 8½, Inverary, 12½=21¼.		
Cairndow	9¼	48½
Arroquhar	14	62½
Tarbert	1½	64¼
Luss	8	72¼
Dumbarton	12¼	84½

15. *Inverary to Portnahaven in Islay.*

	Miles	Miles
Goatfield	8	8
Lochgilphead Inn	14½	22½
Beallanoch Inn, tolerable	7	29½
Tayvillich Inn, tolerable	6	35½
Keal, public-house	6	41½
Ferry to Jura	8½	50
Feoline	17½	67½
Ferry to Islay, good inn at Port Askaig	1	68½
Bridgend Inn	8	76½
Bowmore, 3 miles.		
Portnahaven, tolerable	17	93½

16. *Inverary to Campbelltown, and back to East Tarbert.*

	Miles	Miles
Lochgilphead (see No. 15)	22½	22½
East Tarbert Inn	12½	35
West Tarbert, public-house	1	36
Whitehouse, good inn	4½	40½
Clachan of Shinikell, public-house	4½	45
Clachan Tayanloan, good public-house	6½	51½
Clachan Barr, good public-house	6½	58½
Bealachantine	2½	60½
Mackerihanish Bay, small public-house	4½	65
Campbelltown	6½	71½
Mull of Cantyre, 10 miles.		
Sadell, good public-house	10	81½
Carradell, public-house	4	85½
Grogport, public-house	4	89½
Clunaig, public-house	10	99½
Skipness castle and village, 2 miles, (do).		
Clunaig to East Tarbert, across the hills, no road from Skipness	10	109½

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17. *Tarbert to Bowmore and Portnahaven in Islay.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Carrick Point	1	1	Bridgend Inn	8	42
Ardpatrick	10	11	Portnahaven	17	59
Port Askaig	23	34	Bridgend to Bowmore, 8 miles.		

18. *Stirling to Inverness, by Fort-William.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Doune	8	8	Inverouran, public-house	10	62
Callander	7¾	15¾	King's House, tolerable	9	70
Lochearnhead	13¾	29½	Ballachulish, tolerable	16	86
Luib Inn	10½	40	Fort-William	14	100
Crienlarich	7	47	Inverness (see Nos. 6. and 7., &c.), by Invermoriston	64	164
Tyndrum	5	52			

19. *Stirling to Dunkeld, by Lochearnhead and Loch Tay.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Doune	8	8	Killin	7	36¼
Callander	7¾	15¾	Kenmore	16	52¼
Callander to Loch Catrine, 9½ miles.			Aberfeldy	6	58¼
			Grandtully Arms	7	65¼
Lochearnhead	13¾	29½	Dunkeld	9	74½

20. *Stirling to Perth, by Lochearnhead and Crieff.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Lochearnhead, (see No. 18)	29½	29½	Stirling, 20½ miles.		
St. Fillan's	7	36½	New Inn	7¼	55¾
Comrie	5½	42	Perth	10	65¾
Crieff	6½	48½			

21. *Crieff to Inverness, by Dalnacardoch.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Carmuclach, tolerable	11	11	Cushiville, small inn	5	28
Amulree	1½	11½	Tummel Bridge	7	35
Aberfeldy	10½	22	Dalnacardoch	10	45
Weems	1	23	Inverness, (see No. 8)	71¼	116¼

22. *Crieff to Inverness, by Tummel Bridge, Bridge of Garry, and Blair.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Tummel Bridge (see No. 21).	35	35	Blair Athole	4	49
Bridge of Garry, no inn	10	45	Inverness (see No. 3)	82	131

23. *Inverness to Shielhouse, by Strathglass and Strath Affrick.*

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Bogroy, public-house	7	7	Shielhouse, by the Beallach and Crowe of Kintail, good public-house	17	64
Beauly Bridge	4	11			
Beauly (inns), 1 mile.			Shielhouse, by Glomak Fall, 3 or 4 miles more.		
Crask of Aigas, public-house	5	18			
Struy Bridge, and small inn	4	22	N. B. Struy to Jeantown, by Glenstrathfarar, about 47 miles.		
Invercannich, public-house	7½	29½			
Fasnakyle Bridge	2½	32			
Loch Benneveian, no inn	5	37	Struy, by Glen Cannich, to Shielhouse, about the like distance.		
Annamulloch and Culivie, west end of Loch Affrick, Shepherd's Houses	10	47			

24. *Inverness to Dunvegan, by Loch Carron.*

	Miles	Miles
Dingwall, by Kessock Ferry	13	13
Strathpeffer, Spa Hotel and another inn	5	18
Contin, inn	3	21
Strathgarve	5½	26½
Auchnanault	11	37½
Luib, public-house	8	45½
Craig, public-house	8	53½
Jeantown	9	62½
Shieldaig on Loch Torridon, 14 miles.		
Applecross, 12 miles.		
Strome Ferry, public-house	5	67½
Dornie, 6 miles.		
Kyle Akin Inn	12	79½
Broadford	8½	88
Dunvegan (see No. 7)	47	135
Struan	11	
Sligachan	13	
	24	

25. *Inverness to Lochbroom and Ullapool.*

	Miles	Miles
Strathgarve (see No. 24)	26½	26½
Glascarnock, public-house	12	38½
Braemore, public-house	13	51½
Ardcarnich, public-house	7	58½
Ullapool, tolerable inn	5	63½

26. *Inverness to Loch Maree, Poolewe, and Gairloch.*

	Miles	Miles
Auchnanault, (see No. 24)	37½	37½
Auchnasheen, no inn	5	42½
Kinloch-Ewe Inn	12	54½
Torridon House, 12 miles, no inn.		
Slatadale, public-house	12	66½
Gairloch, tolerable inn	8	74½
Poolewe, tolerable inn	5	79½
Poolewe from Slatadale (road incomplete)	6	85½

27. *Inverness to Thurso.*

	Miles	Miles
Beauly	12½	12½
Dingwall	9	21½
Dingwall, by Kessock Ferry, 13 miles, difference, 8½.		
Evanton	6	27½
Invergordon	7	34½
Tain	11½	46
Bonar Bridge	13½	60
From Dingwall, across the hill, to Stittenham Inn, 12½ miles, Bonar Bridge 14		
	26½	
difference	12	
Clashmore	10½	70½
Ditto, from Tain, by Meikle Ferry, 9½ miles, difference 15.		
Golspie, 4 miles past the Mound, over Loch Fleet	14	84½
Port Gower	14½	99
Berridale	11½	111
Swiney	12½	123½
Wick	15	138½
Thurso	20½	159

28. *Inverness to Tongue, by Kessock and Meikle Ferries, and the Mound.*

	Miles	Miles
The Mound, (see No. 27)	57	57
Lairg	14	71
By Kessock, Stittenham, and Bonar Bridge 50½.		
Aultnaharra, public-house	21	92
Tongue	18	110
By Kessock, Stittenham, and Bonar Bridge, 89½.		

29. *Inverness to Tongue and Cape Wrath, by Bonar Bridge.*

	Miles	Miles
Bonar Bridge, (see No. 25)	60	60
Do. by Kessock, and Stittenham, 39½.		
Lairg, excellent inn	11	71
Aultnaharra, excellent inn	21	92
Tongue, excellent inn	18	110
Ferry	2	112
Loch Erriboll at Huelim, public-house	10	122
Ferry	2	
Portchamel, no inn, round the head of Loch Eriboll	12	134
Duirness Bay, good inn	7	141
Ferry	2½	143½
Cape Wrath, no inn	11	154½
Do. by Kessock, and Stittenham		134
or,		
Aultnaharra	92	92
Do. by Kessock and Stittenham	71½	
Cashel Dhu, public-house	13	105
Eriboll, public-house	5	110
Portchamel	8½	118½
Cape Wrath, no inn	20½	139
Do. by Kessock and Stittenham		118½

30. *Bonar Bridge to Assynt, Eddrachillis and Duirness.*

	Miles	Miles
Shin Bridge, public-house	5	5
Cassley Bridge, do.	8	13
Oikel Bridge and small inn	7	20
Ullapool 20		
Aultnancealgach Burn, public-house	10	30
Innisindamff, inn	8	38
Loch Inver, 14, (52), excellent inn.		
Oldiney (no inn) from Loch Inver, 14.		
Kyle Skou, public-house	12	50
Scourie, good inn	11	61
Laxford Bridge, public-house	6	67
Rhiconich Inn, small inn	6	73
Duirness, good inn	14	87

31. *Tongue to Thurso.*

	Miles	Miles
Bettyhill of Farr, good inn	12	12
Strathy Village and Inn, tolerable	8	20
Melvich Inn in Glen Hallowdale, good	8	28
Reay Kirk, and Inn, tolerable	4	32
Thurso	12	44

32. *Circuit of the Orkney Islands.*

	Miles	Miles
Thurso to Stromness, about	24	24
Birsay	12	36
Evie	6	42
Rousay, tolerable inn	2	44
Across Rousay, say	3	47
Egilshay	2	49
Tuquoy in Westray	8	57
Pierowall Inn	4	61
Papa Westray 4		
Rapness	8	69
Cuthesvoe in Eday	3	72
Calf Sound, comfortable public-house	2	74
Pool, or Hecklabor, in Sanday	3	77
Scar, or Savil	8	85
Castlehill, comfortable inn	4	89
North Ronaldshay	7	96
Remains of lighthouse	3	99
Bridesness	3	102
Start lighthouse, or Taftness, in Sanday	7	109
Start to Kettletoft	7	116
Papa Sound in Stronsay (village)	7	123
Lambhead	6	129
Ghoe of Shapinshay	7	136
Elwick	6	143
Carness, on Mainland	2	145
Kirkwall	3	148
Stromness 12		
Holm	7	155
Burray	2	157
South Ronaldshay	1	158
Burwick	8	166
Houna	12	178

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33. *The Long Island.*

	Miles
Stornoway to Ness, near the Butt, by Barvas	28
Stornoway to Callernish Inn	16
Garrynahuie, junction with Uig Road, near Callernish, to Uig Church	21
Stornoway to the Lews and Harris March	24
The Harris Road, from the Lews March to Tarbert (where there is an inn), is nearly completed. There is an old road from Tarbert to Rodel. The whole distance from the Lews March to Rodel, is about	32
Stornoway to Tolsta	12
Stornoway to Portnagowan in Eye peninsula	12
Callernish to Barvas	18
An inn at Dalbeg, about half-way between these places.	

For the other islands, see p. 660.

Note.—There are inns affording good accommodation at all the preceding stations where no qualifying remark is made, unless in the Long Island and the Orkneys. By public-house is to be understood a small inn of moderate pretensions.

II. DISTANCES IN THE LOWLANDS.

RAILWAY LINES.

1. *Carlisle to Edinburgh*, 100 *miles.*

	Miles		Miles
Rockcliffe	4	Lamington	63
Gretna	8	Symington	66
Kirkpatrick	13	Thankerton	68
Kirtlebridge	17	Carstairs	73
Ecclefechan	20	Carnwath	74
Lockerbie	26	Auchengray	79
Nethercleugh	29	Harburn	85
Wamphray	34	Midcalder	90
Beattock	39	Currie	95
Elvanfoot	53	Slateford	98
Abington	58	Edinburgh	100

2. *Carlisle to Glasgow, (via Caledonian Railway).*

Rockcliffe	4	Lanark	76
Gretna Junction	8	Bardwood	81
Kirkpatrick	13	Carluke	82
Kirtlebridge	17	Overton	85
Ecclefechan	20	Wishaw	86
Lockerbie	26	Motherwell	89
Nethercleugh	29	Holytown	91
Wamphray	34	Whifflat	94
Beattock	39	Coatbridge	94½
Elvanfoot	53	Gartsherrie	96
Abington	58	Gartcosh	97½
Lamington	63	Garnkirk	98
Symington	66¼	Steps Road	100
Thankerton	68½	Glasgow	105

3. *Carlisle to Greenhill Junction.*

	Miles		Miles
Motherwell	89	Cumbernauld	101
Garnsherrie	96	Greenhill Junction	106½

4. *Berwick to Edinburgh.*

Ayton	7	Drem	40
Reston	11	Longniddry	44
Grant's House	16	Tranent	48
Cockburnspath	21	Inveresk	51
Dunbar	29	Portobello	55
Linton	34	Edinburgh	58

5. *Edinburgh to Hawick.*

Portobello	3	Stow	27
Niddry	5	Bowland Bridge	29
Gallowshall or Eskbank	8	Galashiels	34
Dalhousie	9	Melrose	37
Gorebridge	13	St. Boswell's	41
Tynehead	16	New Belses	46
Heriot	19	Hawick	53
Fountainhall	23		

6. *Edinburgh to Glasgow.*

Corstorphine	4	Falkirk	26
Gogar	6	Scottish Central Junction	30
Ratho	8	Castlecary	32
Winchburgh	12	Croy	36
Linlithgow	18	Campsie Junction	41
Polmont	23	Glasgow	48

7. *Glasgow to Ardrossan and Ayr.*

Paisley	7	Kilmarnock branch		10½	
Johnstone	10	Kilwinning			26
Cochrane Mill	11	Ardrossan	5½	31½	
Lochwinnoch	15	Irvine			29
Beith	17	Troon (Fleetwood)			34
Kilbirnie	19	Monkton			36
Dalry	23	Ayr			40

8. *Glasgow to Greenock.*

Paisley	7	Port-Glasgow	20
Bishopton	13	Greenock	23

9. *Greenhill Junction to Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen.*

Larbert	4	Luncarty	49
Stirling	12	Dunkeld Road	50
Bridge of Allan	15	Stanley	51
Greenloaning	23	Cargill	56
Auchterarder	31	Woodside	58
PERTH	45	COUPAR-ANGUS	61

Greenhill Junction to Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen—Continued.

	Miles		Miles
Ardler	63	Dubton	96¼
Meigle	66	Montrose	99¼
Eassie	69	Marykirk	100¾
Glammis	72	Laurencekirk	104¼
FORFAR	78	Fordoun	106¾
Clocksbriggs	80½	Drumlithie	112¾
Auldbar	83¾	Stonehaven	119¼
Guthrie Junction	86¼	Muchalls	123¾
Farnell Road	90¼	Portlethen	127¼
Bridge of Dunn	93½	Cove	130¾
Brechin	97¼	ABERDEEN	135

10. *Edinburgh to Dundee and Coupar-Angus.*

Granton Ferry	3	Cupar-Fife	32
Burntisland	8	Dairsie	36
Kinghorn	11	Leuchars	39
Kirkcaldy	14	St. Andrews	7
Dysart	16	Ferry-Port-on-Craig	44
Thornton Junction	19	Broughty Ferry	45
Markinch	21	Dundee, east station	47
Falkland Road	24	Newtyle	58
Ladybank Junction	27	Ardler	63
Springfield	29	Coupar-Angus	65

11. *Edinburgh to Perth, by Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway.*

Burntisland	8	Newburgh	34
Kirkcaldy	15	Abernethy	37
Ladybank Junction	27	Bridge of Earn	41
Colessie	30	PERTH	45

12. *Perth to Dundee, Arbroath, Friockheim Junction, and Aberdeen.*

Kinfauns	3	Monifieth	27
Glencarse	6	Carnoustie	32
Errol	10	Easthaven	33
Inchture	12	Arbroath	38
Longforgan	14	Friockheim Junction	44
Invergowrie	17	Farnell road	48¼
Dundee, west station	21	Aberdeen (see No. 9)	92¼
Broughty Ferry	25		

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13. *Edinburgh to the Tweed, the Border, Ettrick Forest, and Clydesdale.*

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